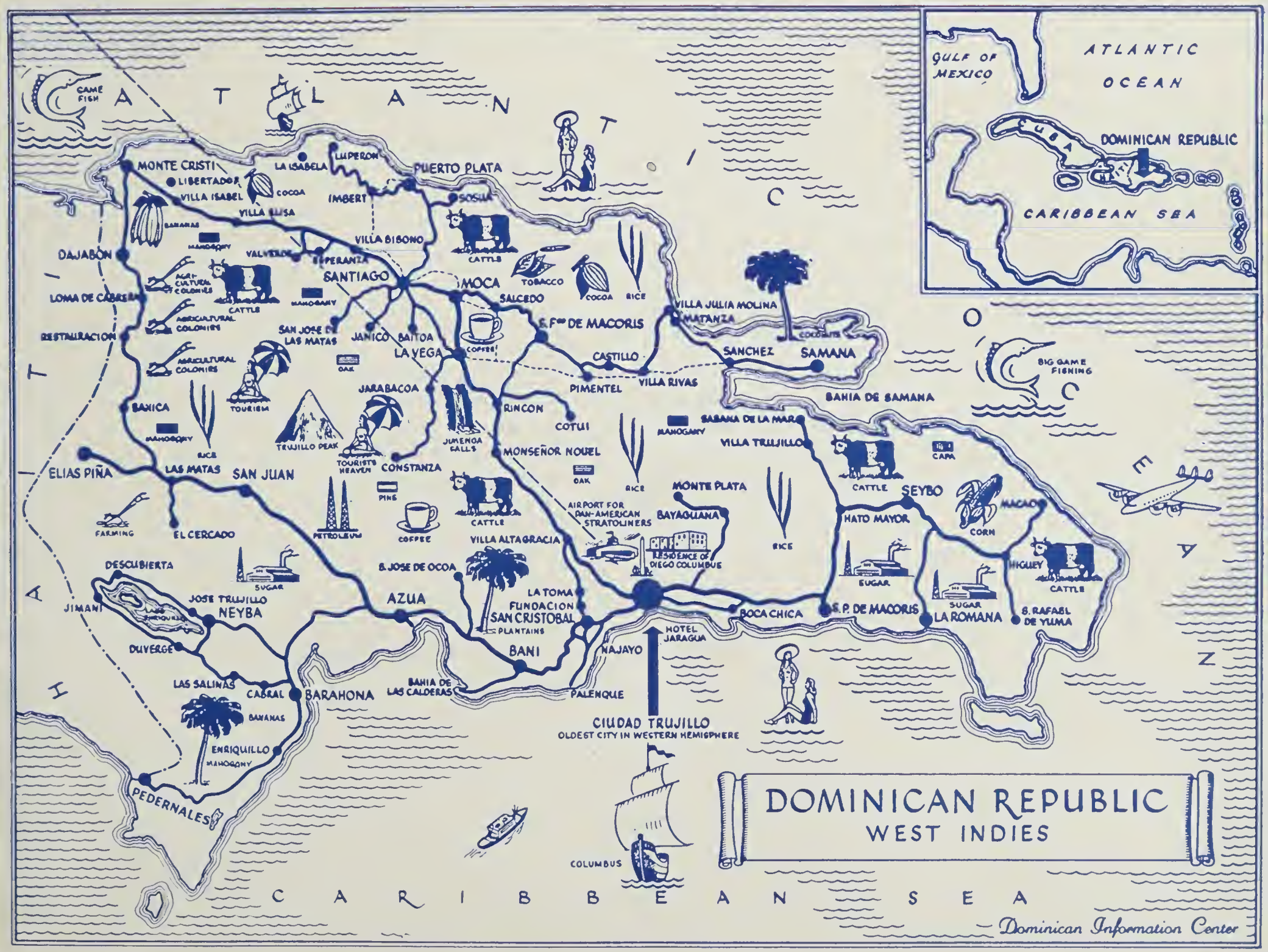
Pam
Domin. Rep.
c. 2
Dominican Republic

THIS IS THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



MISSIONARY RESEARCH
LIBRARY
NEW YORK CITY

Published by the

Consulate General

of the

Dominican Republic

New York, N. Y.

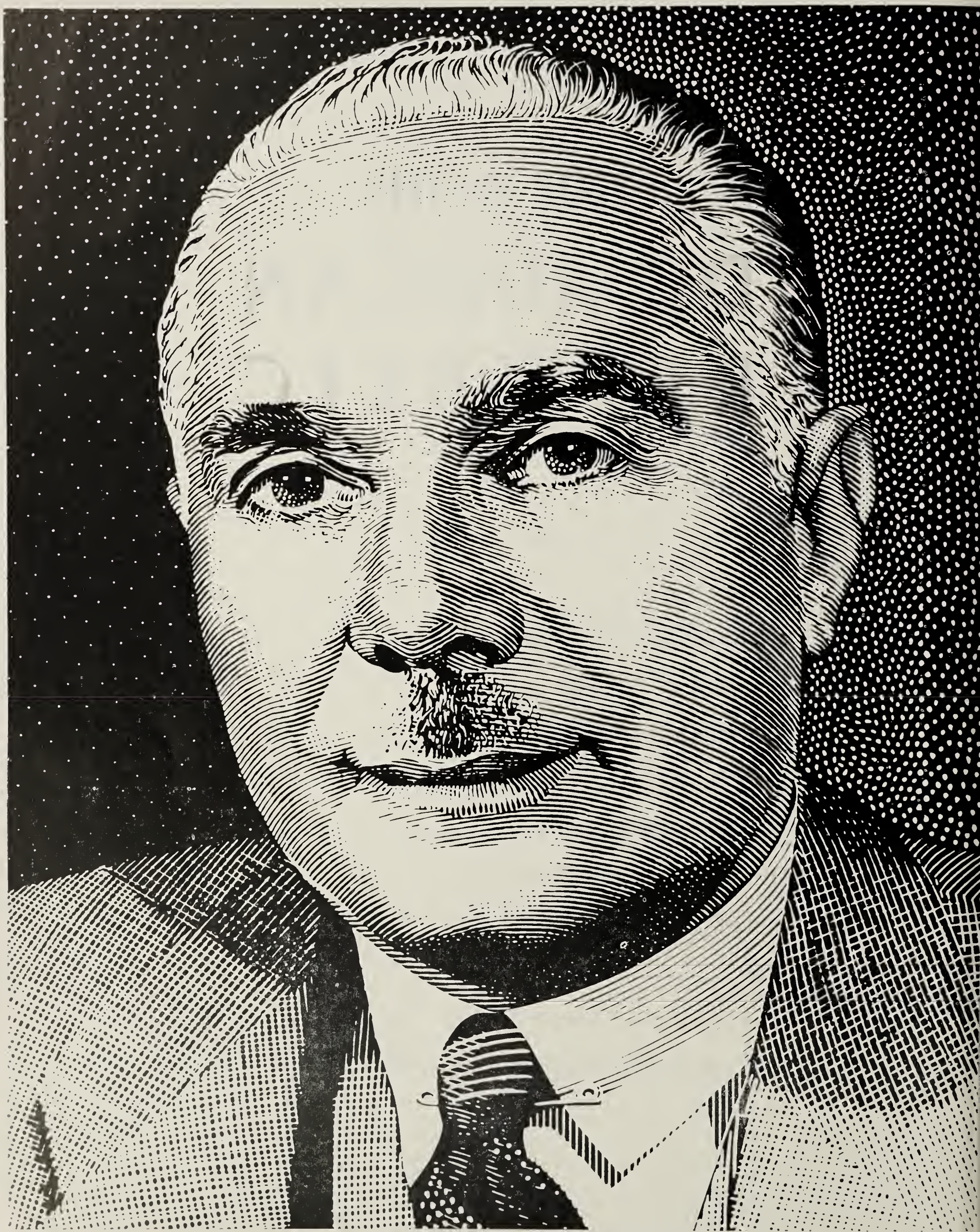
This booklet is partially based on a work originally published in Spanish under the title of "Reseña Geográfica, Histórica y Estadística de la República Dominicana," by Vicente Tolentino Rojas, in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.

NOV 22 1954

THIS IS THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CONTENTS

	Page
Columbus Called it La Española	1
The Land of Discovery	12
Political Organization	17
Social Progress	24
Agricultural Development	30
They Even Grow Their Own Dollars In the Dominican Republic	37
1953	40
Food, Funds and Common Sense	41
Here's a Health Program that Really Works	42



Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo Molina

Columbus Called it La Española

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC occupies the eastern two-thirds of the Island of Hispaniola —called "La Española" by Christopher Columbus —and is the second largest of the Greater Antilles. It lies between parallels 17° 36' and 19° 58' North of the equator, and between meridians 69° 18' and 71° 59' longitude West of Greenwich, in the Caribbean Sea.

It has an area of 18,704 square miles, comparable in size to the states of New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island combined, which comprise an area of 19,360 square miles. According to the last official estimate (1953), the Dominican Republic has a population of 2,290,805 inhabitants, comparable to that of the state of Mississippi. Its capital city, Ciudad Trujillo, has a population of 181,553.

Two Countries Share Island

The Island of Hispaniola whose western part is occupied by the Republic of Haiti lies between parallels 17° 36' and 19° 58' latitude North, and between meridians 68° and 74° 30' longitude West of Greenwich. The island is bound by the Atlantic Ocean on the North, by the Caribbean Sea on the South; East by the Mona Passage which separates it from Puerto Rico and West by the Windward Passage which separates it from Cuba.

Below is a table of distances between Ciudad Trujillo and some important foreign ports:

	Nautical Miles
Cádiz, Spain	3,125
Colón, Panamá	810
Curacao, N. W. I.	400
Havana, Cuba	935
Hamburg, Germany	4,305
Kingston, Jamaica	410
La Guaira, Venezuela	500
Le Havre, France	4,141
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico	160
New York, U.S.A.	1,535
San Juan, Puerto Rico	230
St. Thomas, V. I.	295
Santiago, Cuba	415
Southampton, Eng.	3,884

Territorially, the Dominican Republic is a privileged country. Its extensive valleys and high mountains, ideally located, provide the necessary conditions for an unexcelled hydrographic system, pleasant climate, fertile lands and facilities for the building and maintenance of communications.

Highest Mountains in the Antilles

Its territory is traversed from the southeast to the northwest by the great Cordillera Central (Central Mountain Range), which boasts the highest peaks in the West Indian archipelago. Approximately in its center it branches out in two directions, one fork following its original course northeastwards, the other stretching towards the southwest. At the point where this division takes place the Cordillera attains its fullest breadth and its peaks are the highest. This area is considered the backbone of the whole orographic system of the Antilles.

The main heights in the Cordillera are: *Loma del Maco* 7,181 feet; *Monte Gallo* 8,201; *Monte Tina* or *Alto de la Bandera* 9,279; *Entre Dos Ríos* 7,347; *Pico del Yaque* 9,256; *La Pelona* 10,063; and towering above all the others with a height of 10,420 feet, *Pico Trujillo*, so named by the Dominican people as a gesture of gratitude to Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo Molina, former President of the Dominican Republic. Pico Trujillo is the highest mountain in the Antilles.

Comparative Area

The Valley of La Vega Real stretches along the full length of the Cordillera Central. It is bound on the other side by the Cordillera Septentrional (Northern Mountain Range) which lies parallel and close to the north coast of the Dominican Republic and also straddles Hispaniola from the southeast to the northwest.

This beautiful valley sung of by many poets and which Bartolomé de las Casas —the noble 15th century missionary and historian— described as so fertile it could produce enough to feed Castile and all its dominions, was also the scene which prompted Columbus to say: "It is the most beautiful thing that human eyes have ever seen."

Land is Source of Wealth

Although all the land is fruitful, the harvests are richest in the Valley of La Vega Real and the largest number of cities and towns are found here in what is the heart of the island. Some of its soil is covered by humus several feet deep. Its lush vegetation, nourished by the flow of an infinite number of rivers and brooks added to its position on the path of the trade winds, makes for pleasant temperatures all the year-round.

In the southwest is the Sierra of Bahoruco whose highest peaks range from 4,265 to 4,780 feet. This Sierra is famous in the history of the Dominican Republic because it was here that the Spanish Conquistadores were held at bay for a number of years by the Cacique Enriquillo — the first American Indian to revolt against the Spanish Crown and with whom King Charles V reached an agreement assuring the protection of his people.

It is difficult to think of any country of comparable size with more rivers than the Dominican

Mountain ranges in the Dominican Republic.

Hispaniola is shared by two countries: the Dominican Republic to the east and Haiti to the west.

Republic. Due in part to the fact that nature endowed the island with high and well placed mountains, its rivers and streams flow far and wide.

The bulge of the Cordillera Central previously mentioned, is the source of its four main rivers. The fountainheads of two large rivers, Yaque del Norte and Yaque del Sur, are in the northern and southern slopes, respectively, of the great mountain range. Plunging from these heights, the Yaque del Norte runs across the Valley of La Vega Real and flows into Manzanillo Bay, after meandering along 250 miles and gathering in its course the waters of the rivers Jimenoa, Jagua, Bao, Amina, Mao, Gurabo and Guayubin which are among its main tributaries.

Irrigated by Rivers

In the southern slopes of the Cordillera are the headwaters of the Yaque del Sur which irrigates an extension of 125 miles from its point of origin in the Pico del Yaque. Following its sinuous course across the Valley de San Juan to drain into Neyba Bay in the Caribbean, the Yaque del Sur picks up the waters of the rivers del Medio, Mijo, Las Cuevas, San Juan and others.

In the same bulge of the Cordillera in the slopes of the Montes Banilejos, towards the northeast, springs the Yuna which flows east to drain into Samana Bay, near the town of Sánchez. This impetuous river, like the others, navigable by small craft, gathers the waters of the Camú and other tributaries. It overflows from time to time increasing the fertility of the lands in that region.

From the western escarpments of the Cordillera and in the same direction flows the Artibonite. This river runs into Haiti. It is also navigable by small craft and is known in the Dominican part of the island by its Indian name: Guayajayuco.

These rivers divide the country into quarters.

Delightful Climate

The Dominican Republic boasts of a delightful climate. Constanza, for instance, in the mountainous region has a mean temperature of 65° F., while Azua in the south has a mean temperature of 82° F. However, in Jarabacoa, an important tourist center, on chilly

winter nights, the mercury has been known to drop to 46° and Constanza has on occasion reached the freezing point at 32° F.

In the valleys of Constanza, situated in the center of the island, savannahs covered by frost in the early morning are not a strange sight. And the highest peaks of the Cordillera Central are frequently covered with snow.

The traveller to the Dominican Republic is bound to find that the farther he goes in the interior, the more pleasant the temperature becomes. The modern hostelries in the high valleys between the mountain ranges are becoming increasingly popular as summer resorts.

RAINFALL is abundant in most parts of the Dominican Republic. During the period 1936-1944, for instance, 56 out of 67 rain gauging stations registered a mean annual rainfall of well over a meter (59.4 inches.) This, added to the land's fertility, makes agriculture flourish in the Caribbean Republic. In certain regions where rains are insufficient, the Government has developed an extensive program of irrigation which has turned former wastelands into rich, productive fields. This "watering policy" continues without interruption. Large zones in different parts of the country have received its benefits and their agricultural output is on the increase year after year. One of the main goals of the Dominican Government is to make profitable all the lands that can be irrigated, not only to increase food production but also to conserve the country's forests which are situated mainly in the mountainous areas of the Republic. In this way, the nation's rainfall will not be affected by the deforestation of the highlands.

Samaná, the city located in the peninsula at the northeastern end of the island, in the beautiful bay of the same name, registered the largest precipitation (98.94 inches) during the period under review. Pedernales, at the opposite end of the country, had the lowest—21.29 inches.

MEAN RAINFALL IN THE MAIN CITIES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1947 - 1952

Cities	Rainfall in inches
Ciudad Trujillo	45.3
Azua de Compostela	24.4
Barahona	32.6
Concepción de La Vega	48 3
La Romana	50.0
San Fernando de Montecristi	22.2
Moca	36.8
San Felipe de Puerto Plata	70.8
Santiago de los Caballeros	32.0
San Pedro de Macoris	48.0
San Cristobal	63.6
Santa Bárbara de Samaná	87.1
Sánchez	63.5

Ports

Along the coastline of the Dominican Republic are many natural ports of great panoramic beauty which are ideal as anchorages. Near Ciudad Trujillo is Las Calderas, a semi-circular bay, sheltered from the winds of the north, northeast and southeast which cause the greatest havoc during the hurricane season. It is deep enough to accommodate large ocean-going ships. Samaná Bay has the magnificent port of Santa Bárbara de Samaná; the port of Sánchez and the roadstead of San Lorenzo. In the north there are the ports of Montecristi (in Manzanillo Bay) and Puerto Plata. All these are deep and well-protected harbors.

The capital of the Dominican Republic, the oldest city in America, was founded near the Ozama River. Its gateway to the sea is Puerto

In 1954, work will begin on an $8,000,000 port improvement program to accommodate more commercial traffic in the capital city of Ciudad Trujillo.

Trujillo, one of the largest and most modern ports in the West Indies, built at a cost of $15,000,000, with facilities to handle large ocean liners.

This port is contributing to the continued development of Ciudad Trujillo which is today one of the cleanest and most beautiful capital cities of the world, abounding in historical relics and interesting mementos of colonial days.

Other important maritime ports are Azua and Barahona, the recently improved ports of San Pedro de Macoris, La Romana and Río Haina. The last four southern ports are outlets for the sugar regions of the south and southeast. In addition, the northern coast boasts of Puerto Libertador, outlet for the export of bananas produced in that territory.

The Dominican Republic has many other natural ports and anchorages which are used in coastwise shipping operations.

This picture shows the modern port of Río Haina which was recently developed by the Dominican Government to handle shipments of sugar, molasses and iron ore from the mines in the Hatillo district. In the background is the Río Haina sugar mill built in 1951. It is one of the world's largest and newest mills.

Airports

Ciudad Trujillo has the modern General Andrews Airport which is one of the largest in the West Indies. It is used by Pan-American Airways, the Dominican Airlines (Compañía Dominicana de Aviación) and the Dominican Army. Santiago, Puerto Plata, Azua, Barahona, and many other cities and towns have local and military airfields.

Ruins of the Monastery of San Francisco built in 1664.

Main Dominican Cities

CIUDAD TRUJILLO: Capital of the Republic, situated on the south coast, at the mouth of the Ozama River with a population of 181,553 inhabitants (census of 1950) The city has a modern port, recently constructed, with facilities for large ocean liners. It is the oldest city in America and takes pride in the fact that it is the resting place of Christopher Columbus, the Great Admiral Discoverer of the New World. Ciudad Trujillo also boasts of being one of the few cities in the Americas that still has useful buildings and well-kept ruins of the Columbian era. Notable among these is the Alcazar de Colón (Columbus Castle), seat of the first viceroyship established in America. Here the Second Admiral and Viceroy, Diego Columbus, and his wife Doña María de Toledo, established residence for themselves and their court. Other famous buildings include La Torre del Homenaje (The Homage Tower), the first fortress built by the Spanish empire in the New World; the Primate Cathedral of America; the imposing ruins of San Francisco, at whose entrance are buried the remains of Alonso de Ojeda, conqueror of Venezuela; the first hospital built in America; the ruins of Saint Nicholas; and many other buildings of colonial days.

And contrasting with these treasures of the past, are the modern buildings, beautiful avenues, luxurious hotels, stadiums, racetracks, casinos and beach clubs of the city. Ciudad Trujillo is famous for its extreme cleanliness in which its inhabitants take great pride and which visitors continually praise. All this adds up to make it one of the leading tourist attractions in the Americas.

Among recent structural additions are the Palace of the Executive, a beautiful dome-topped building which houses the offices of the President of the Republic; the Palace of the Dominican Political Party; University City, seat of another first —the oldest University in the Western Hemisphere; several schoolhouses; the William Morgan Hospi-

tal for working people, and the Military Hospital Professor Marión.

This beautiful capital was founded by Bartholomew Columbus, brother of the Great Admiral, on August 4, 1496 and called "La Nueva Isabela" or "Santo Domingo del Puerto", and later it became "Santo Domingo de Guzman". Its present name of Ciudad Trujillo was conferred on the city through a national plebiscite and congressional resolution, as a tribute to Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo Molina, former president of the Dominican Republic, who rebuilt the capital after it was razed by a hurricane on September 3, 1930.

SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS: Mediterranean city, the second most important in the Republic, with a population of 53,558 (1950 census). The city of Santiago as it is popularly known, rises on the banks of the river Yaque del Norte in the large and fertile valley of La Vega Real, some 500 feet above sea level. It was founded by the Adelantado Bartholomew Columbus in 1495 and inhabited by 30 knights of the Order of Santiago in 1500. Hence the origin of its name, Santiago de los Caballeros.

Santiago is connected with the capital and other important cities by a network of highways. It is the center of the tobacco and lumber industries. In addition, it houses starch-processing mills and rum distilleries.

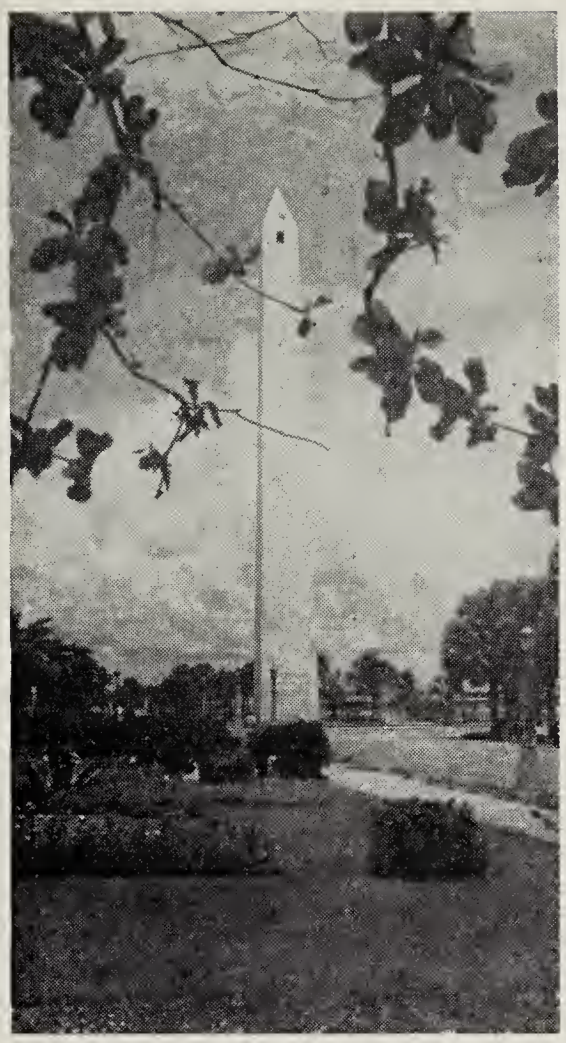
The city of Santiago has many interesting buildings, well-stocked libraries, and social centers.

Santiago de los Caballeros is the vital hub of the Cibao, the most productive region of the country, and which embraces nine provinces.

SAN FELIPE DE PUERTO PLATA: Maritime city located on the north coast. Has a first-class port and wide berths for the world's shipping. With a population of 14,-843 (1950 census), Puerto Plata also has several important industries, among them the production of matches and of dairy products. It is also the home of the country's leading chocolate factory.

Puerto Plata is the main seaport for the exports and imports of the Cibao region.

A few miles from this city is Sosúa, the settlement established by Jewish refugees whose lands were donated by Generalissimo Trujillo. This settlement is a going concern as far as the development of small industries is concerned.



Obelisk on Ciudad Trujillo's George Washington Avenue was erected to mark city's rebirth.

Also near San Felipe de Puerto Plata are the ruins of "La Isabela", the first settlement built in America by the "Admiral of the Ocean Sea." La Isabela was established by Columbus on his second trip to the New World and to Hispaniola in 1493. It was named after Queen Isabella of Spain. It was later abandoned for a more healthful and prosperous location southwards, where gold had been discovered. A committee made up of citizens of all the American Republics is now planning the reconstruction of La Isabela. This project will foster the cause of Pan-Americanism and stimulate the flow of tourists to the Dominican Republic.

SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS: A maritime city known as the "Sultaness of the East". Situated on the southern coast of the Republic near the estuary of the Higuamo River. It has a population of 19,876 (1950 census). San Pedro is one of the Republic's leading sugar centers.

POLITICAL DIVISION

Politically the Dominican Republic is divided into 22 provinces and one National District as follows:

DISTRITO DE SANTO DOMINGO (Capital: Ciudad Trujillo, also capital of the Republic).
AZUA (Capital: Azua de Compostela).
BARORUCO (Capital: Neiba).
BARAHONA (Capital: Barahona).
BENEFACTOR (Capital: San Juan de la Maguana).
DUARTE (Capital: San Francisco de Macoris).
ESPAILLAT (Capital: Moca).
INDEPENDENCIA (Capital: Jimaní).
LA ALTAGRACIA (Capital: La Romana).
LA VEGA (Capital: Concepción de La Vega).
LIBERTADOR (Capital: Dajabón).
MONTECRISTI (Capital: San Fernando de Montecristi).
PUERTO PLATA (Capital: San Felipe de Puerto Plata).
SALCEDO (Capital: Salcedo).
SAMANA (Capital: Santa Bárbara de Samaná).
SANCHEZ RAMIREZ (Capital: Cotui).
SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS (Capital: San Pedro de Macoris).
SAN RAFAEL (Capital: Elías Piña).
SANTIAGO (Capital: Santiago de los Caballeros).
SANTIAGO RODRIGUEZ (Capital: Santiago Rodríguez).
SEIBO (Capital: Santa Cruz del Seibo).
TRUJILLO (Capital: San Cristobal).
TRUJILLO VALDES (Capital: Baní).

The Republic has 83 municipalities and one District —Santo Domingo.

The Homage Tower, the first defense bastion built in the Americas, was erected in 1503 at the mouth of the Ozama River.

CONCEPCION DE LA VEGA: Was founded in 1495 by Bartholomew Columbus at the foot of the fortress built the year before by his brother, Christopher Columbus. During the earlier years of the Spanish Colony of Santo Domingo, La Vega was one of the island's leading towns, and was the Episcopal See until 1527.

The city is situated in the Valley of La Vega Real near the Camu River and boasts of pleasant temperatures all-year-round.

Banana seeds looking like oversized turnips are planted in neat rows on a plantation in the rich interior valley of La Vega, in the agricultural heart of the Dominican Republic.

La Vega has a population of 14,-200 (1950 census) and is connected by highways to the rest of the country. A railroad also links this center with Sánchez, Salcedo and Moca.

Approximately four and a half miles from La Vega is the Santo Cerro (Holy Mount), atop which is the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, built in colonial days. According to the religious tradition, the Virgin appeared on the hill during the battle of La Vega Real in which the conquering Spanish troops, under the command of Christopher Columbus himself, defeated the Indian tribes led by the valiant chieftains, Caonabo and Maniocatex.

This place of worship, visited year-round by Catholic pilgrims, also has the "Santo Hoyo" —the pit where the Spaniards planted the cross around which the great battle took place.

The Santo Cerro is also the site of the Padre Fantino Seminary where the youth about to join the Dominican clergy receives its first religious instructions.

SAN CRISTOBAL: the capital of Trujillo Province was established in the first years of the Twentieth Century. This city of modern architecture and beautiful parks played an important part in the early days of the Dominican struggle for independence. Its Municipal Palace rises from the grounds where the First Constitution of the Dominican Republic was signed on November 6, 1844. Among its new and modern edifices are the Palace of Justice, the casino, several schools and a hotel with terraces and swimming pool.

Generalissimo Dr. Rafael L. Trujillo Molina, former president of the Republic, was born in San Cristobal. The city has a population of 9,723, as per 1950 census.

Near San Cristobal is the National Institute of Agriculture, one of the most important agriculture schools in the Antilles .

SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS: Located in the northeastern region of the Valley of La Vega Real, very close to the Northern Mountain Range. Has been endowed with an extremely pleasant climate. It has a population of 16,083 (1950 census). San Francisco, as this city is known by most Dominicans, is an important commercial center due to its large and varied agricultural production which includes cocoa beans, rice and coffee. It is connected to Sánchez by a railroad and by a network of roads to the capital and other cities of the Republic.

The valleys and mountains of the Dominican Republic have been praised for their beauty by all who have seen them. This is a view of "El Santo Cerro" near La Vega from which Christopher Columbus called the surrounding valley ".....the most beautiful thing that human eyes have ever seen".

BANI: Is the capital of the José Trujillo Valdés Province, with a population of 10,210 inhabitants. Here was born Máximo Gómez, one of the heroes of the Cuban independence movement.

Bani is one of the few places in the Antilles which strongly maintains the traditions of its founders, the Spanish hidalgos.

MOCA: The city of Moca was established around 1789 and became the capital of Espaillat Province in 1885. It is situated 95 miles from Ciudad Trujillo on the Duarte Highway —the main road of the country — between the cities of Santiago and La Vega. Its population, according to the 1950 census, was 9,589.

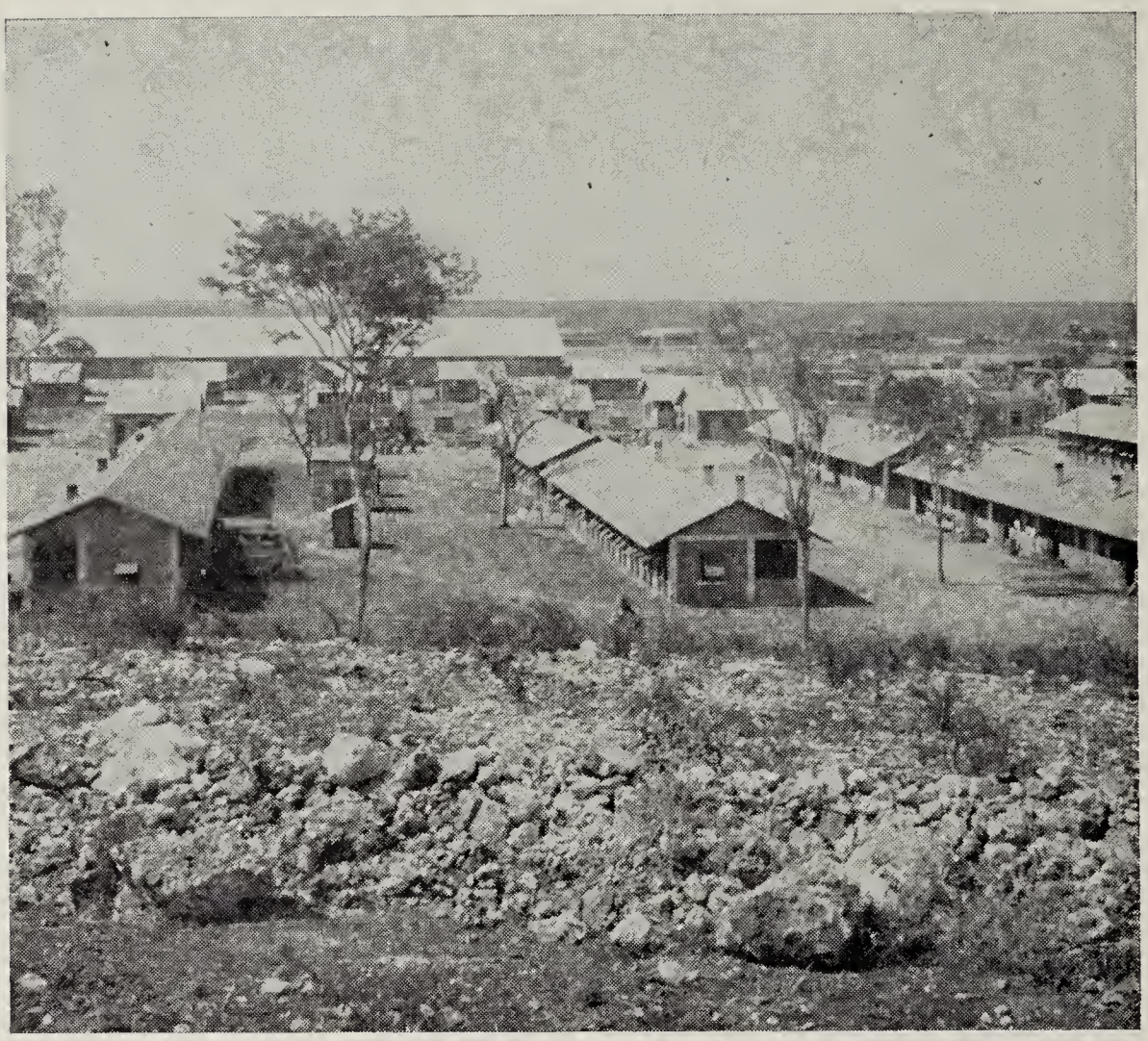
In the center of the agricultural belt, Moca grows cocoa beans, coffee and tobacco.

MONTECRISTI: San Fernando de Montecristi, capital of the Province of Montecristi, is one of the oldest towns on the island of

Hispaniola. It was founded in 1506 during the governorship of the Knight Nicolás de Ovando. Destroyed in 1606 by instructions from the Spanish Crown, Montecristi was rebuilt in 1756. It is situated in the Northwest at the end of the Duarte Highway, 183 miles from Ciudad Trujillo. A highway connects Montecristi with Haiti.

With a population of 4,581 inhabitants, this town was the first in the Dominican Republic to have an aqueduct which was opened in 1889. Besides its own port, in Manzanillo Bay, Montecristi also has the use of nearby Puerto Libertador.

AZUA DE COMPOSTELA: Capital of the Province of Azua, in the southern part of the Republic, the city is bisected by the Sánchez Highway which connects it with the rest of the country. Azua de Compostela was founded by Diego de Velázquez in 1504 during Ovando's regime. A few years later, the city was destroyed by an earthquake. It was later rebuilt a few miles to the northeast at its present site. In the region known as Pueblo Viejo



Spanning the horizon are the sheds and warehouses of Puerto Libertador, the artificial port near Montecristi built by the United Fruit Company.

The lighthouse of Ciudad Trujillo rises in a beautiful park by the ruins of the old city walls.

(Old Town) visitors may still see the ruins of the first church of Azua. Although situated in an arid region, Azua's agricultural production is abundant, the land being irrigated through the use of artesian wells. It produces a large part of the Republic's quota of hardwoods and hides.

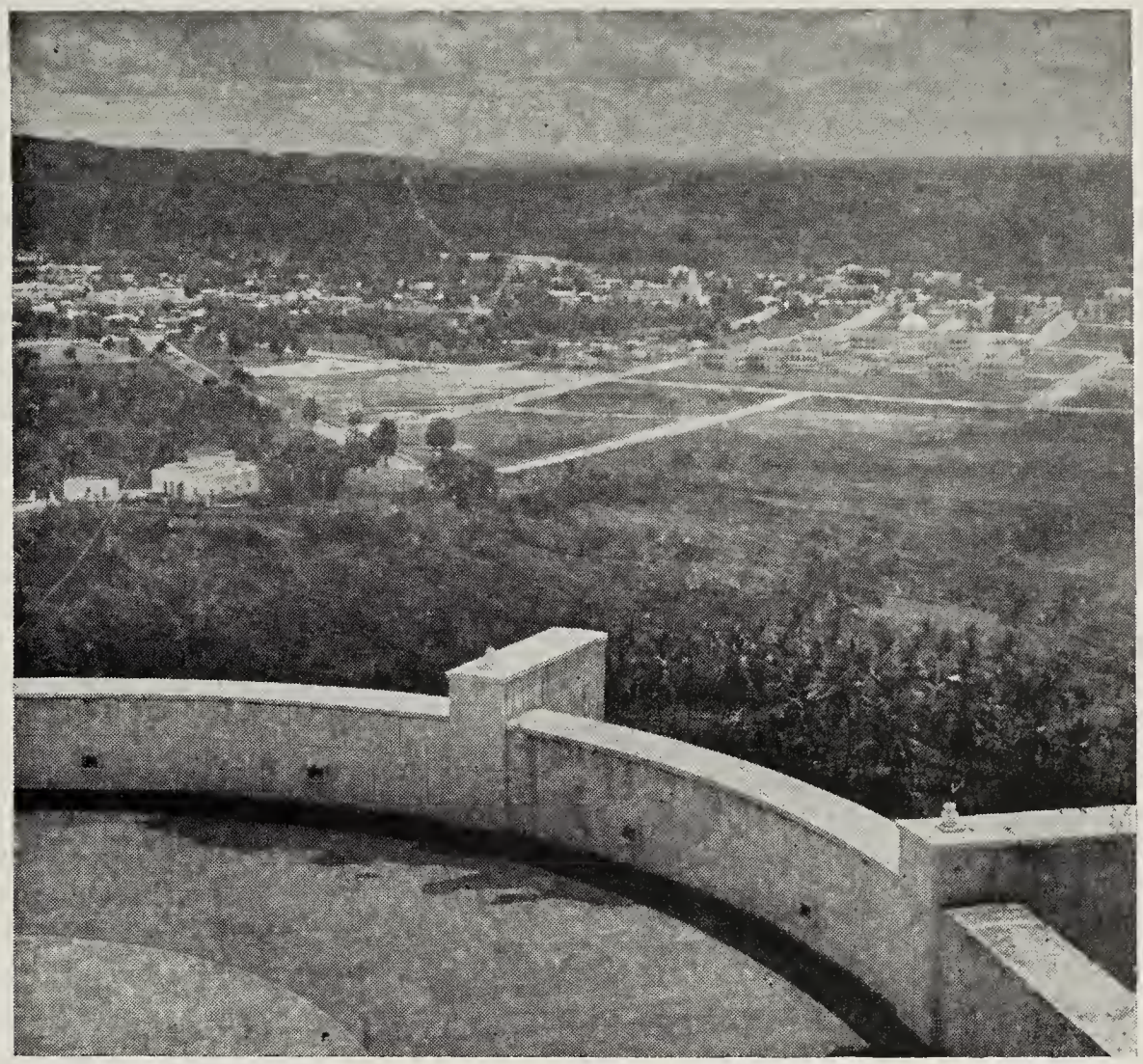
On the historical side, Azua has a soft spot in the heart of every Dominican citizen. Here took place the memorable battle of March 19, 1844, when the invading hordes of Haiti were checked by the Dominicans. The town of Azua was set fire to on three occasions by the Haitians.

It now has a population of 7,496 (1950 census). The port of Azua is about two miles from the town.

BARAHONA: Santa Cruz de Barahona, in the southern region of the Dominican Republic is the capital of the province of Barahona. Situated on the shores of Neiba Bay, the city is 123 miles from Ciudad Trujillo by the Sánchez Highway route. It was founded in the early days of the last century.

Today, Barahona is an important commercial center with a population of 14,654 (1950 census). It is the home of one of the biggest and most modern sugar mills in the West Indies. Its average annual sugar output is 500,000 bags of 320 lbs. each.

Barahona's coffee of unexcelled quality is well-known in markets all over the world. Other chief exports are lumber, including mahogany and lignum-vitae.



This is San Cristobal, the cradle of the Constitution of the Dominican Republic. The historic document was signed here on November 6th, 1844.

Panoramic view of Santiago de los Caballeros, the second largest city of the Dominican Republic. Santiago is in the center of the nation's bread basket. It was originally inhabited by 30 knights of the Order of Santiago.

SAN JUAN DE LA MAGUANA: Here is another Dominican town founded by the legendary Diego de Velázquez in 1504 before he became the conqueror and first Spanish governor of Cuba. San Juan is on the Sánchez Highway, 127 miles from Ciudad Trujillo. The 1950 census gives it a population of 3,116 inhabitants. It is the capital of the Benefactor Province.

Surrounded by fertile valleys, San Juan produces large quantities of beans, rice, corn and coffee.

SANTA CRUZ DEL SEIBO: Capital of the province of Seibo on the eastern tip of Hispaniola some 500 feet above sea level. Founded in 1502 by the Spanish Captain Juan de Esquivel. It is surrounded by fields of sugar cane, and its population, as reported in 1950, is 3,116.

LA ROMANA: Capital of the province of La Altagracia. A maritime city in the eastern part of the country. This city was founded towards the end of the last century, but it only began to progress in 1911 after the establishment there of the Central Romana Sugar Company, one of the leading sugar mills in the Dominican Republic. La Romana has a population of 14,074 (1950 census).

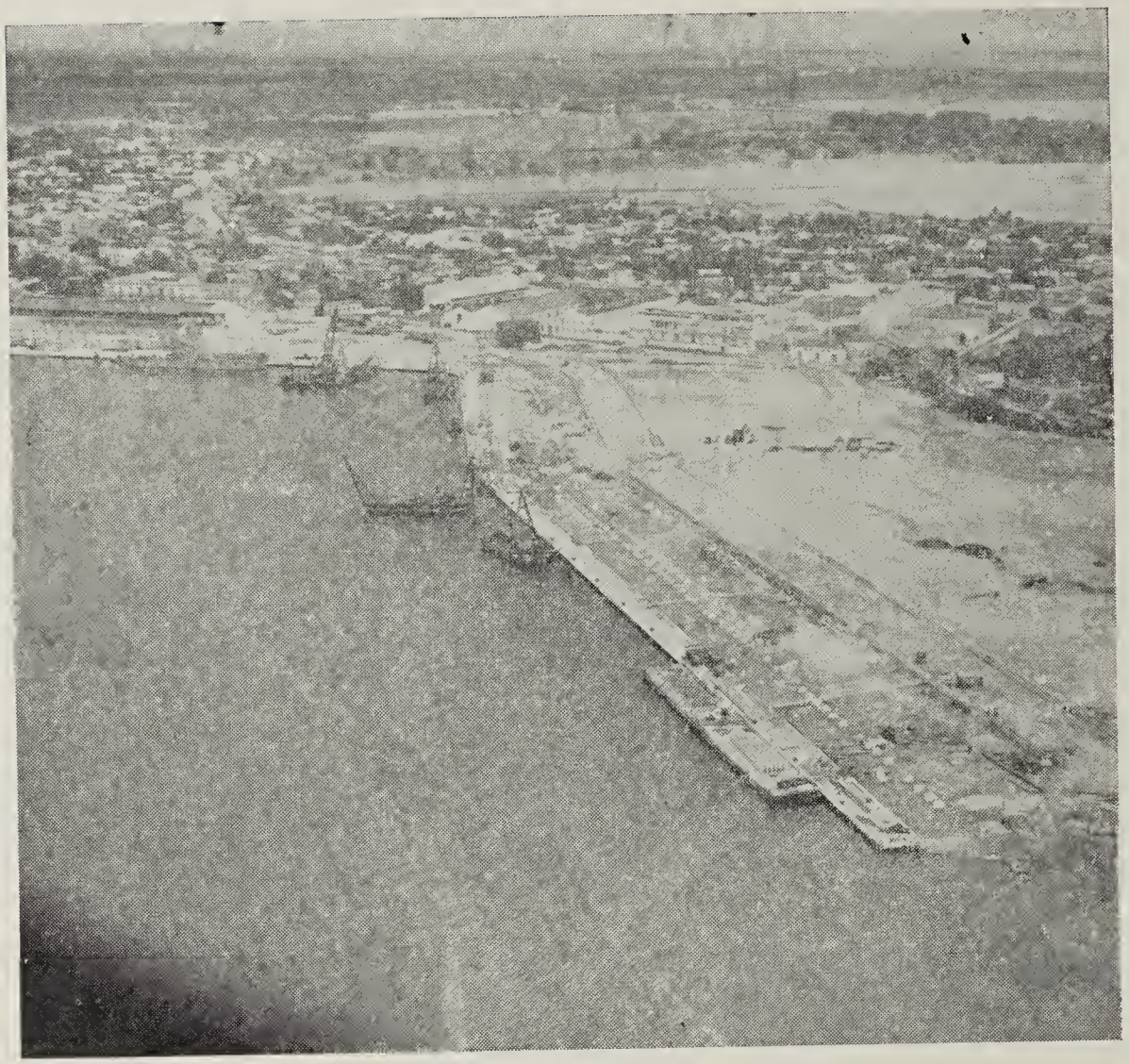
SANTA BARBARA DE SAMANA: One of the most picturesque towns on the island of Hispaniola is this capital of the province of Samaná. It is on the southern coast of the peninsula which bears the same name. Located at the foot of a hill and bordering on a natural harbor, the town is surrounded by a string of cays to protect it from the buffeting winds. It was established by the Spaniards in 1756 with immigrants from the Canary Islands. Years later its population was increased by Haitian immigrants, and slaves from the United States.

Samaná has one of the most beautiful natural harbors in the Caribbean, year-round beaches and eye-filling scenery. It is connected to Sánchez by a highway and produces coconuts, rice and precious woods. According to the latest census its population totaled 2,480 inhabitants.

DAJABON: The capital of Libertador. Founded between 1771 and 1776 by Spanish Governor Brigadier José Solano y Bote, and abandoned during the War of Independence, people began to move in again after the Restoration War of the Dominican Republic (1865). It is located approximately 203 miles from Ciudad Trujillo and 21 miles from Montecristi.

Due to its strategic location at the northern end of the border with Haiti, Dajabón played a historic role in Dominican liberation. It was the scene of many campaigns during the war of independence against the Spaniards. Historic battles were later fought on its soil in the Restoration War of the Republic against the Haitians.

Dajabón has a population of 1,779 (1950 census).



The port of San Pedro de Macoris near the estuary of the Higuamo River is also reaping the fruits of Trujillo's far-sighted improvement plans.

Sheltered by a string of cays, the port of Santa Barbara de Samaná is among the safest as well as one of the most beautiful in the West Indies.

The Dominican Republic produces some of the world's finest precious woods. These mahogany logs are ready for the saw mill in the region of La Montaña.

NEIBA: Capital of the province of Bahoruco situated in the southern part of the country, northwest of Barahona. Founded in the early eighteenth century. Like Dajabón, Neiba also played an important part during the wars of independence of the Dominican Republic. Glorious military actions were fought on its fields, such as the battles of Cambronal and La Canela. It is connected with Barahona and the Republic of Haiti by highways. It produces sugar cane and precious woods.

Neiba became the capital of Bahoruco on March 18, 1943.

ELIAS PIÑA: This city, capital of the province of San Rafael, is also in the southern part of the country. Years ago it was called Comendador and was renamed Elías Piña in 1930 after the local and national hero, Colonel Elías Piña. A peaceful border village established early in the 18th Century, it remained dormant until September 16, 1942 when the Government established the new province of San Rafael.

Today, Elías Piña is a modern small city with up-to-date buildings. This change is part of the plan of Dominicanization begun by Generalissimo Trujillo. As a result, agriculture has received a big boost in San Rafael and the region is gaining importance day by day. Its main products are cotton, sugar cane, and coffee.

Weighted cable dragged between two tractors clears land of jungle undergrowth on Dominican banana plantation near Puerto Plata on north coast.

Cacao receives good attention. This tree is only two years old and will yield a good variety.

The Land of Discovery

THE Island of Hispaniola, also known as Santo Domingo, on whose eastern part is situated the Dominican Republic, was discovered by the Great Admiral Christopher Columbus on December 5, 1492 during his first voyage of discovery. Seven days later, on December 12th, Columbus took possession of the island on behalf of the Spanish Crown naming it "La Española".

Toward the end of 1493 in the course of his second trip to the New World the Great Admiral founded the city of "La Isabela" on the northern coast of the island. The new settlement was so called in homage to Queen Isabella of Castile, the Spanish Sovereign. "La Isabela" was the first Christian city of the Americas. Among other "firsts" the city was the site of the first Church built in the Western Hemisphere where the Spaniards officiated their first mass. From the historical point of view it was also the seat of the first municipal government. "La Isabela" remained as the capital of the new colony until 1496 when on August 4th, Don Bartholomew Columbus, brother of the Great Admiral, founded the city of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, today named Ciudad Trujillo. The colonial government then moved to the new city which became the see of the first Viceroyship of the Americas. To this date it has been a bone of contention among historians whether the city was named Santo Domingo because the Spaniards arrived there on Sunday (Domingo), or whether it was named after Domingo (Domenico) Columbus, father of Christopher, Bartholomew and Diego, or because its actual building was begun on a Sunday.

Cradle of America

From Santo Domingo were launched the great expeditions which carried out the conquest and colonization of the new continent.

Until the early part of the Seventeenth Century, during the colonial period, the island was maintained undivided, as part of the Spanish colonial empire. But in the first twenty-five years of the Century began the incursions against its western part by the buccaneers and pirates who occupied de facto certain regions of the territory. They engaged in the trade of hides and smoked meat from the wild cattle which roamed the island, particularly on its north and northwestern regions.

By the end of the Seventeenth Century, the freebooters and buccaneers, who hailed from many nations and were often threatened by the Spanish authorities, sought and obtained the protection of the Kingdom of France becoming firmly established on the island. Spain acknowledged the French position in Hispaniola by signing the Peace Treaty of Riswick under which the island was divided into two colonies: the Spanish colony of Santo Domingo and the French colony of Haiti. Although the mentioned treaty did not establish borders, these were definitively created by another compact, the Treaty of Aranjuez, signed between the two European powers in in 1777.

Spain Gives Up Colony

Eighteen years later under the Peace of Bale the Spanish part of Hispaniola was surrendered to France with the proviso that the Spanish colony of Santo Domingo would be governed from French Saint Domingue, or Haiti.

On Christmas evening 1800, French officials and Spanish authorities where at a ball in Santo Domingo when word arrived that the Haitians under the leadership of General Toussaint L'Ouverture, who had taken over the Government of the neighboring part of the island proclaiming himself Supreme Chief, were marching against the east. Toussaint entered the city of Santo Domingo by the end of January. He drafted a new Constitution proclaming the indivisibility of the island and establishing that although subordinate to France, the colony would be ruled by special laws. A new Central Assembly ignoring France, made him Governor for life. For a while the "Black Napoleon" was sitting atop of the world. But Napoleon could not tolerate this insult to his colonial empire. To this attitude of L'Ouverture, Bonaparte answered by sending an army

under the command of General Le-Clerc, an able soldier, who with the aid of the Spaniards and after a hard struggle pushed the Haitians westward defeating the armies of L'Ouverture. Toussaint was eventually betrayed by some of his own people, caught by the French and shipped to Europe where he died in prison.

THE French colonists had exploited the resources of Haiti in such a way that in a few decades the colony became extraordinarily wealthy. To achieve that purpose the French imported large numbers of African slaves. The enormous numerical superiority of the Negroes over their white masters added to the inhuman treatment to which the former were subject fanned the flames of revolution. The colonists had refused to accept the principles of equality and liberty proclaimed by the French Revolution and the slaves revolted. After years of bloody struggle the whites were decimated and their former serfs established the Republic of Haiti.

Haitians Attempt Invasion

Once free, the Haitians did not waste any time in reviving their dreams of conquest and prepared to march against the eastern part of the island which still was under French authority. In 1805 the Haitian leader, Dessalines, carried out his invasion plans and attempted to seize the city of Santo Domingo. His armies were defeated although

Bartholomew Columbus, brother of the Great Admiral, founding the city of Santo Domingo in the year 1496.

The Chapel of Santa María del Rosario was built in the middle of the sixteenth century. It is situated on the left bank above the Ozama River across from Ciudad Trujillo. It was the former chapel of seamen, the Virgin of the Rosary being the patron saint of the fleet. It was recently restored by the Dominican Government.

they succeeded in reaching the outer gates of the capital of the former Spanish colony.

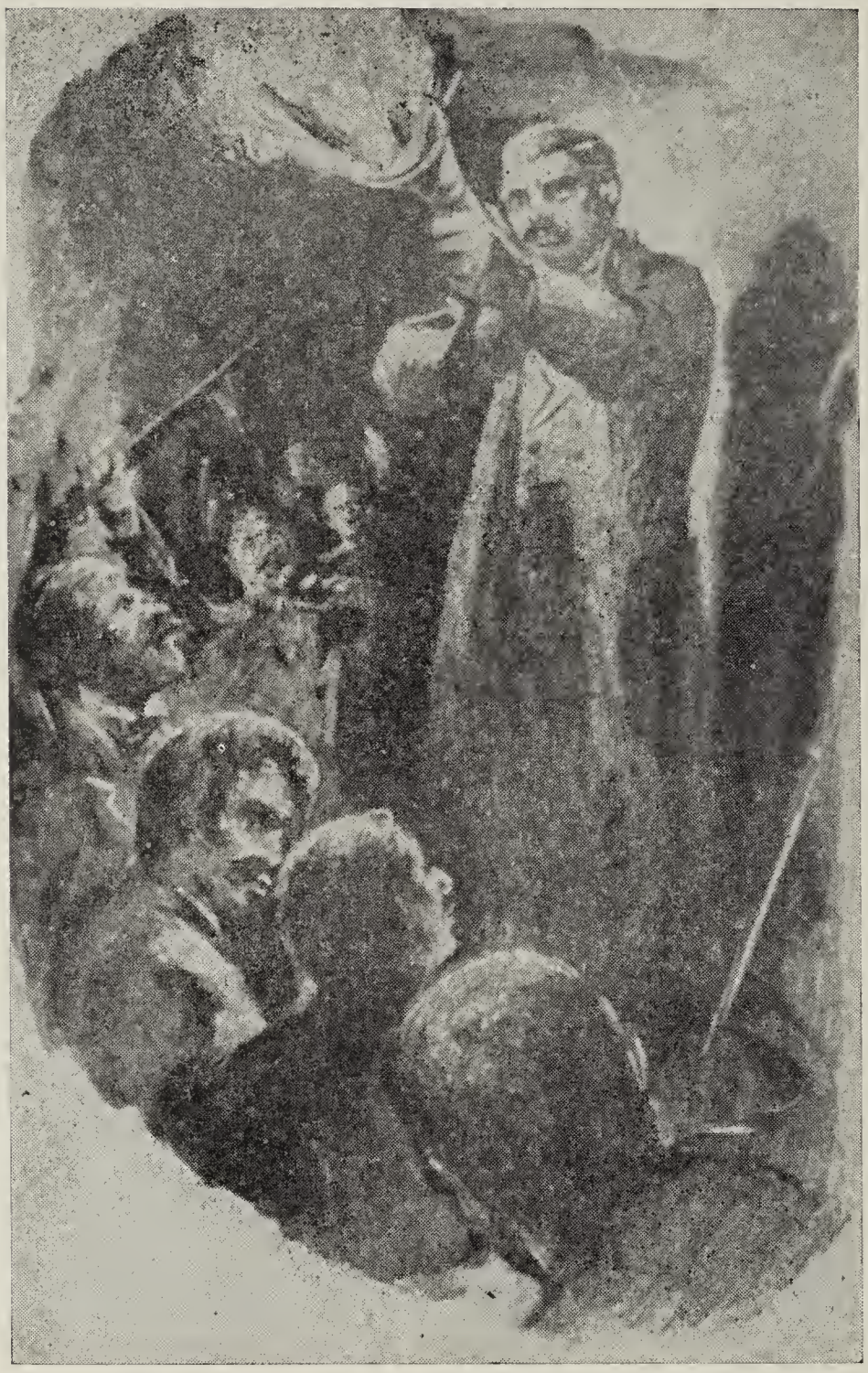
Under French Rule

The city of Santo Domingo remained under French rule from 1802 to 1809, when the occupying troops under General Du Barquier surrendered in the Homage Tower after a protracted siege by the English fleet under Carmichael and native troops under General Juan Sánchez Ramirez. The natives had begun a movement against the French and defeated General Ferrand, the French commander, in the battle of Palo Hincado. Rather than face the disgrace of his defeat the French officer committed suicide. Then Sánchez Ramirez proclaimed the reincorporation of the colony to Spain. This period known in Dominican history as the "Reconquista" (the Reconquest) kept the Haitians at bay for another twelve years.

But as soon as the Dominicans, in November 1821, proclaimed their independence from Spain establishing a free country, the Haitians who since the times of L'Ouverture had advocated only one (Haitian) government for the whole island, decided that it was time to start again. The new nation was reinvaded and, on February 9, 1822, the Governor, Dr. José Núñez de Cáceres, was forced to deliver the keys to the city of Santo Domingo to the invading armies of General Boyer. Haiti ruled the Spanish part of the island for 22 long years. The border established between the two colonies by the Treaty of Aranjuez became non-existent.

Independence Proclaimed

After twenty-two years of darkness the Dominicans who differed from the Haitians by reasons of race, culture and language took up arms against the invaders. Inspired by Juan Pablo Duarte and under the direct leadership of Francisco del Rosario Sánchez and Ramón Matias Mella, the invading hordes were once more thrown behind their own borders and the independence of the Dominican Republic was proclaimed on February 27, 1844. Members of a secret society called "La Trinitaria" (The Trinity)—which began with the purpose of awakening the conscience of the people to pave the way toward the expulsion of the Haitians— met at La Misericordia Gate on February 26, at 11:00 P.M.



A blast from his blunderbuss gave birth to the Republic.

When one of the leaders, Mella, realized that some of the men were undecided and about to quit, he fired his blunderbuss to scare them into staying together. From this Gate the group moved over to El Conde Gate where at dawn was hoisted the first flag of the Dominican Republic. The ensign had been made by María Trinidad Sánchez a sister of Francisco del Rosario Sánchez. The Haitian Governor, General Desgrotte gave up and abandoned Santo Domingo with his troops.

On the Haitian-Dominican border the strife continued for some fourteen years. Santo Domingo was declared the capital of the new Republic. A government was formed and defenses were organized. These were the first steps to put the new nation on its feet.

The first Constitution of the Dominican Republic patterned after the principles recognized by the Constitution of the United States of America was proclaimed at San Cristobal on November 6th of the same year. A Governmental Central Board held authority until the middle of November when General Pedro Santana became the first President of the Dominican Republic.

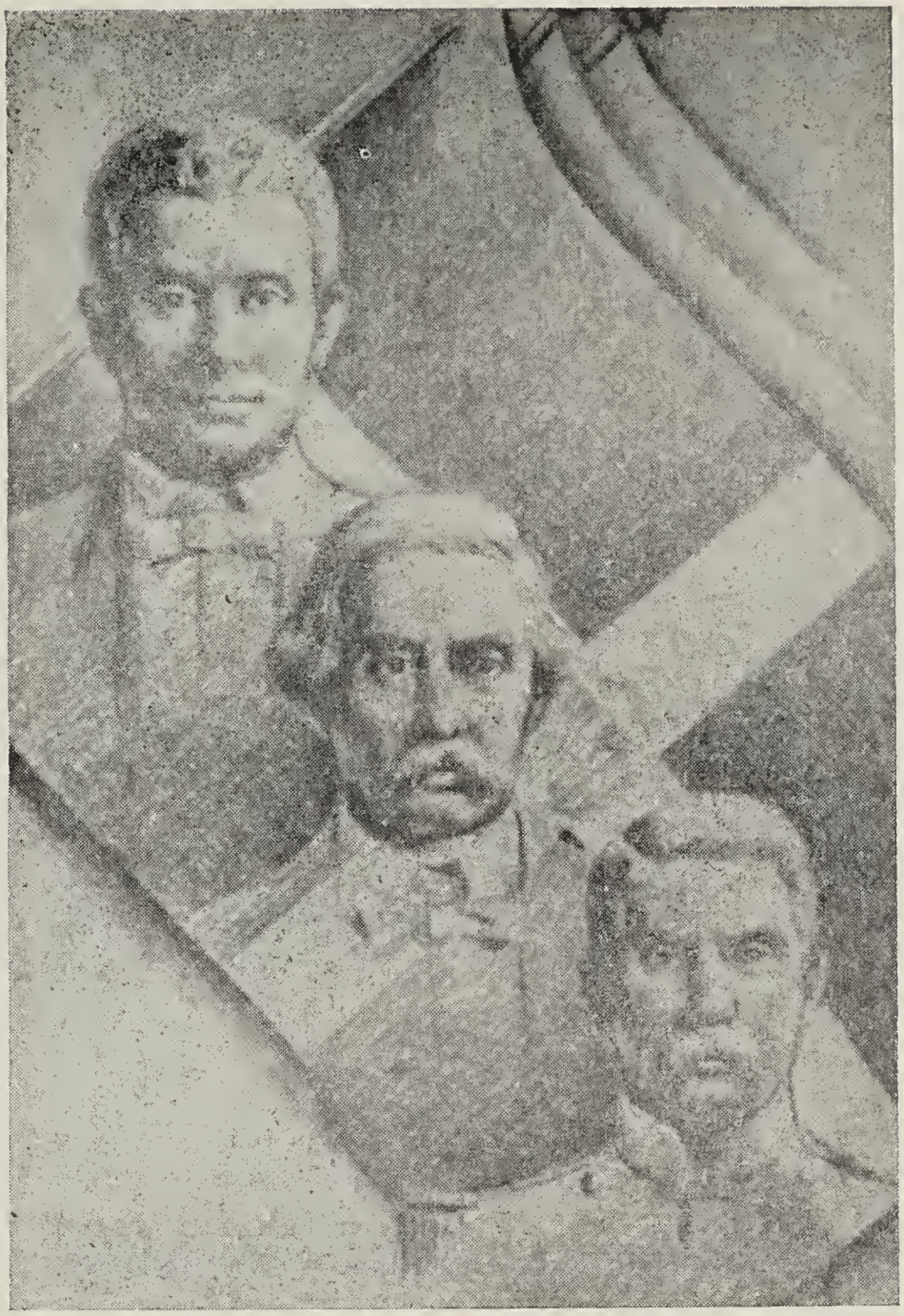
ON March 18th, 1861, General Pedro Santana, the most brilliant warrior in the Dominican Republic's wars of independence, then President of the seventeen year-old nation, proclaimed its annexation to Spain. This move, which has been the subject of untold discussion, was perhaps prompted by the fear

that the Haitians would again occupy the eastern part of the island. From 1861 to 1865 there were four governmental terms in the Spanish colony. In 1865 the Dominicans were triumphant in the War of Restoration begun at Capotillo on August 16th 1863. The Spaniards were forced to evacuate the territory and the Republic was freed from the unjustifiable guardianship to which it had been submitted without any deliberation.

American Ocupation

From the date of the Restoration in 1865 the Dominican Republic enjoyed its independence and freedom, secured at a steep price in blood and sacrifice, until 1916. In that year under the pretext that the Dominican Republic had violated the Dominican-American Convention of 1907 (also called the Adjustment Plan), the United States Marines occupied the country "to maintain domestic tranquility". The military government lasted for eight years during which the Dominicans unsparingly protested the unjust occupation of their country by the United States of America.

After a long struggle both in the diplomatic and military fields the Dominican people regained their freedom from foreign control under the terms of the Hughes-Peynado Evacuation Treaty. On July 12th, 1924 a new government was inaugurated and the Third Republic was born.



Duarte (center) Sánchez (top) and Mella, fathers of the country

Civic Revolt

The bad fiscal administration which characterized the government of the years following the withdrawal of the American forces grew worse with the unjustified prolongation of authority after 1928. This added to the prospects of a so-called presidential re-election which the citizenry did not approve, incited the Dominicans to rebel. A memorable civic movement begun on February 23rd, 1930 forced the resignation of the President and members of his cabinet. Dr. Rafael Estrella Ureña, leader of the popular movement which prompted the resignation of the government, occupied the Presidency.

Election of Trujilo

Summoned to elect a new government on May 16th, 1930, the Dominicans chose Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo to lead their country out of the morass. Trujillo, a man of exceptional gifts, undertook the rehabilitation of the nation and in a few years realized a task unprecedented in the history of the Republic. In recognition of his patriotic achievements, among which stands out the solution of the century-old boundary problem with the Republic of Haiti, a grateful citizenry awarded him the well-deserved title of *Benefactor de la Patria* (Benefactor of the Fatherland). The border problem was definitively settled on April 14th, 1936 after protracted negotiations conducted by the Generalissimo himself.

The boundary problem between Haiti and the Dominican Republic had its beginning in 1697 when by the Treaty of Riswick Spain ceded to France the western part of the Island of Santo Domingo. It had been impossible to reach a satisfactory solution in spite of the Treaty of Aranjuez signed in 1777 which established the boundaries between the two countries. This situation, of course, only contributed to spur the uneasiness between Haitians and Dominicans until the ratification of the Treaty of 1936 which was drafted to the entire satisfaction of both nations in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Thus the differences which existed between the two countries have been eliminated and now the two governments sharing Hispaniola maintain the cordial and sincere relations befitting good neighbors.

The Dominican electorate wished to re-elect Generalissimo Trujillo for a third presidential term, an honor which he declined in an exemplary gesture of civism, and Dr. Jacinto B. Peynado, distinguished statesman and prominent Dominican jurist took the oath of office as President on August 16th, 1938. He

continued the now well-established and proven policies of Generalissimo Trujillo until his death on March 7th 1940, when his running mate, Vice President Dr. Manuel de Jesús Troncoso de la Concha occupied the Presidency.

Trujillo Regains Control of Customs

Generalissimo Trujillo had relinquished the Presidency but he continued working for his people. Appointed Special Ambassador of the Republic he visited the United States where after well-planned and intelligent negotiations he succeeded in obtaining th abolition of the American-Dominican Convention of 1924. This he accomplished through the Trujillo-Hull Treaty with the then U.S. Secretary of State, Cordell Hull. The Convention was the instrument which kept Dominican Customs under American receivership in detriment of the Republic's national sovereignty.

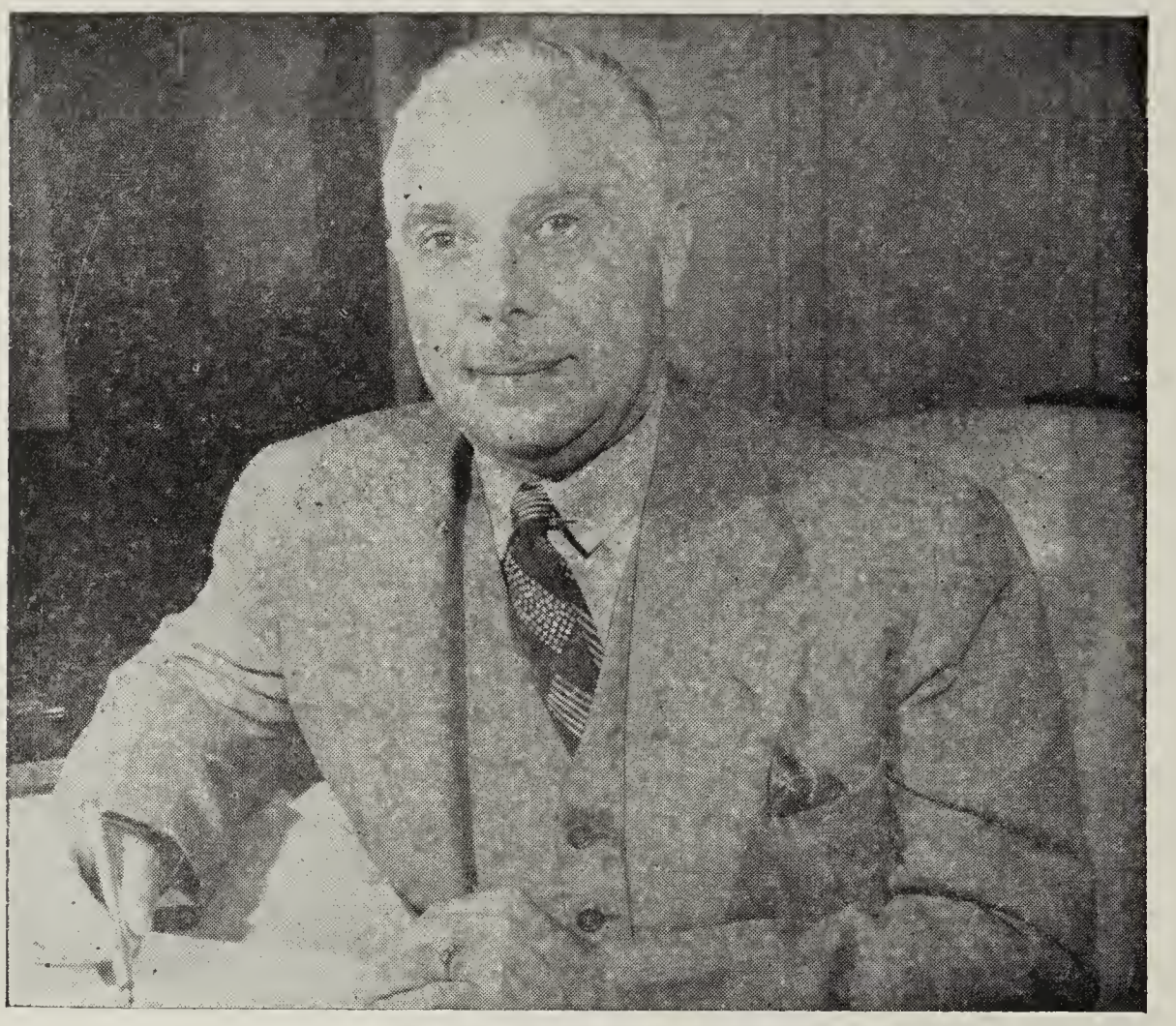
This bold stroke of statemanship by the Dominican leader which has been considered the most significant action of recent years in the political and economical life of the Republic, moved his people to bestow on him, through a plebiscite, the title of Restorer of the Financial Independence. Trujillo was again elected President.

During his new presidential term which began on August 16th, 1942, the achievements of the Generalissimo's Government in every phase of the nation's life were so diverse and important that the Dominican Republic today can call itself one of the most progressive nations of the world. The Dominican electorate reacted to this by re-electing the Generalissimo on May 17, 1947 to another five-year term.

Wipes Out External Debt

On July 21st, 1947 Trujillo topped his plan of economic recovery, which he began with the readjustment of the Republic's foreign debt in 1934, by announcing the total cancellation of the same which at the time amounted to $9,271,855.55.

Four years later the inhabitants of the provinces of La Altagracia, San Pedro de Macoris and El Seibo held a public meeting at La Romana launching a drive to request the Dominican Political Party to nominate the Generalissimo for the 1952-1957 presidential term. The movement begun by the residents of the three eastern provinces snowballed throughout the land. The people held meetings in cities, towns and villages —tantamount to another plebiscite— supporting the initiative of the East. The Dominicans feared the possibility of loosing the man who during the past twenty years had piloted their country against winds and high seas to the highest prosperity and progress in the entire life of the Republic.



Generalissimo Trujillo has crowned the work of the Fathers of the Country, leading the Dominican Republic to its peak of prosperity, peace and progress.

The Dominican Political Party summoned a National Convention which was attended by 3,000 delegates representative of all the institutions and organizations of the Dominican Republic. The Convention was to pick the candidate that the Party would support in the next presidential election.

Trujillo Refuses to Run

Appearing before the Convention held at Ciudad Trujillo on July 17, 1951, Generalissimo Trujillo reaffirmed his previously announced decision that he would not accept the Party's nomination. However, he assured the plenary session that he would always lend his full lest co-operation and support to any elected government.

In view of the irrevocability of the Generalissimo's decision the Convention selected as its candidate General Hector B. Trujillo Molina, who was elected by popular suffrage on May 16, 1952. General Trujillo was sworn in on August 16th of the same year and since then has discharged his duties to the absolute satisfaction of the Dominican people, who see him continuing the task begun by his distinguished brother. Climaxing Trujillo's plan of Financial Reconstruction, the Secretary of the Treasury announced in August 1953 that the Dominican Government had achieved complete financial freedom by retiring in full the country's internal debt which on February 28th, 1953 amounted to $31,318,936.91. True to his promise that he would give his most decisive cooperation to any government, the Generalissimo is the senior counsellor and guide of the Government of the Dominican Republic and the most admired and beloved statesman of the nation.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

THE CONSTITUTION of the Dominican Republic guarantees: the inviolability of life; freedom of religion and conscience; freedom of education; the right to the free expression of thoughts without previous censorship; freedom of association and the right of the people peaceably to assemble; the right of ownership; the inviolability of mail and other private documents; the inviolability of domicile; freedom of transit; the exclusive property of inventions and discoveries and of scientific, artistic and literary productions; individual security; the right to vote and the right to be elected to public office of every Dominican citizen, male or female, over eighteen years of age

The Government is essentially civil, republican, democratic and representative and it is divided in three branches which are independent in the exercise of their functions: the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch.

Legislative Branch

The legislative power is vested in Congress which consists of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies (House of Representatives). There are 23 Senators, one for each province and one for the District of Santo Domingo; the Deputies or Representatives number 52, one for each 60,000 inhabitants or fraction in excess of 30,000 for each province. The provinces with 60,000 or less inhabitants elect two deputies. All members of Congress are elected by direct suffrage for a five-year term and can be re-elected.

Executive Branch

The executive power is vested in the President of the Republic who is the Chief of the Public Administration and the Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces of the nation. He is elected by universal suffrage every five years and can be re-elected any number of times. The President selects and appoints the Secretaries of State who form the Cabinet. The Cabinet is not constituted on a political basis. The Secretaries of State are assisted by Under-Secretaries who are also selected and appointed by the Chief Executive of the Republic.

Judicial Branch

The judicial power of the Dominican Republic is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice; the Appeals Courts; the Land Tribunals; Courts of First Instance; Peace Tribunals; and other judicial courts established by law.

The Supreme Court is the highest tribunal of the land. It is constituted

by seven justices with its seat in Ciudad Trujillo, capital of the Republic.

Following in hierarchical order are the Courts of Appeal with five justices each.

The Courts of Appeal are established in different regions of the Republic as follows: one in Ciudad Trujillo, which has jurisdiction over the districts of Trujillo Valdéz, Azua and Barahona; one in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, capital of Santiago, wtih jurisdiction over the judicial districts of Santiago, Puerto Plata and Montecristi; one in La Vega with jurisdiction over La Vega, Duarte, Espaillat and Samaná; one in San Pedro de Macoris, El Seibo and La Altagracia; and the sixth in San Juan de la Maguana, capital of the province of Benefactor, comprises the judicial districts of Benefactor, San Rafael, Bahoruco and Libertador.

There is a Court of First Instance in each of the judiciary districts of the Republic; the provinces and the District of Santo Domingo each constitute one judiciary district, making a total of 23 Courts of First Instance. In a few important cities the Court is made up of several chambers as in the case of the District of Santo Domingo which has two Penal Chambers and a Civil and Commercial Chamber. The provinces of Santiago, La Vega and Duarte have a Penal, a Civil and a Commercial Chamber each.

Every "común" (county) of the Republic and every municipal district has a Peace Court excepting the District of Santo Domingo which has four, and the "comúnes" of Santiago and La Vega which have two each.

The Attorney General of the Republic is the Chief of the Judicial Police as well as the Government Attorney, functions which he discharges before the Supreme Court of Justice.

All the justices of the Supreme Court, Appeals Courts, Courts of First Instance, Land Courts and Peace Tribunals, are elected by the Senate of the Republic.

'Camara de Cuentas'

The "Cámara de Cuentas" is a body established by the Constitution with a President and ten members who are also elected by the Senate for a five-year term. Its duties are similar to those of the Comptroller General in the United States. The "Cámara de Cuentas" is responsible for the settlement and adjustment of all the claims and accounts with which the State is concerned, including the accounts of the District of Santo Domingo, the "comúnes", municipal districts and of the establishments and institutions which are subsidized by the Government.

The "Cámara de Cuentas" submits annual reports to the National Congress detailing all the financial operations of the Government.

This organization with its permanent seat in Ciudad Trujillo is authorized to meet in any other region of the Republic whenever it deems it necessary.

Five days after August 16th, every year, the "Cámara de Cuentas" elects from its membership a President, Vice President and Secretary whose term of office is one year.

Administrative Tribunal

Law No. 1494 of August 2, 1947 created an Administrative Tribunal to handle all administrative claims defined by the same law. This tribunal will have a Presiding Judge, a Vice President, and three judges appointed by decree of the Chief Executive.

The Administration, the District of Santo Domingo, the "comúnes",

Palace of Communications in Ciudad Trujillo

municipal districts and public dependencies of the State will be represented before the Tribunal by a Solicitor General also appointed by the President.

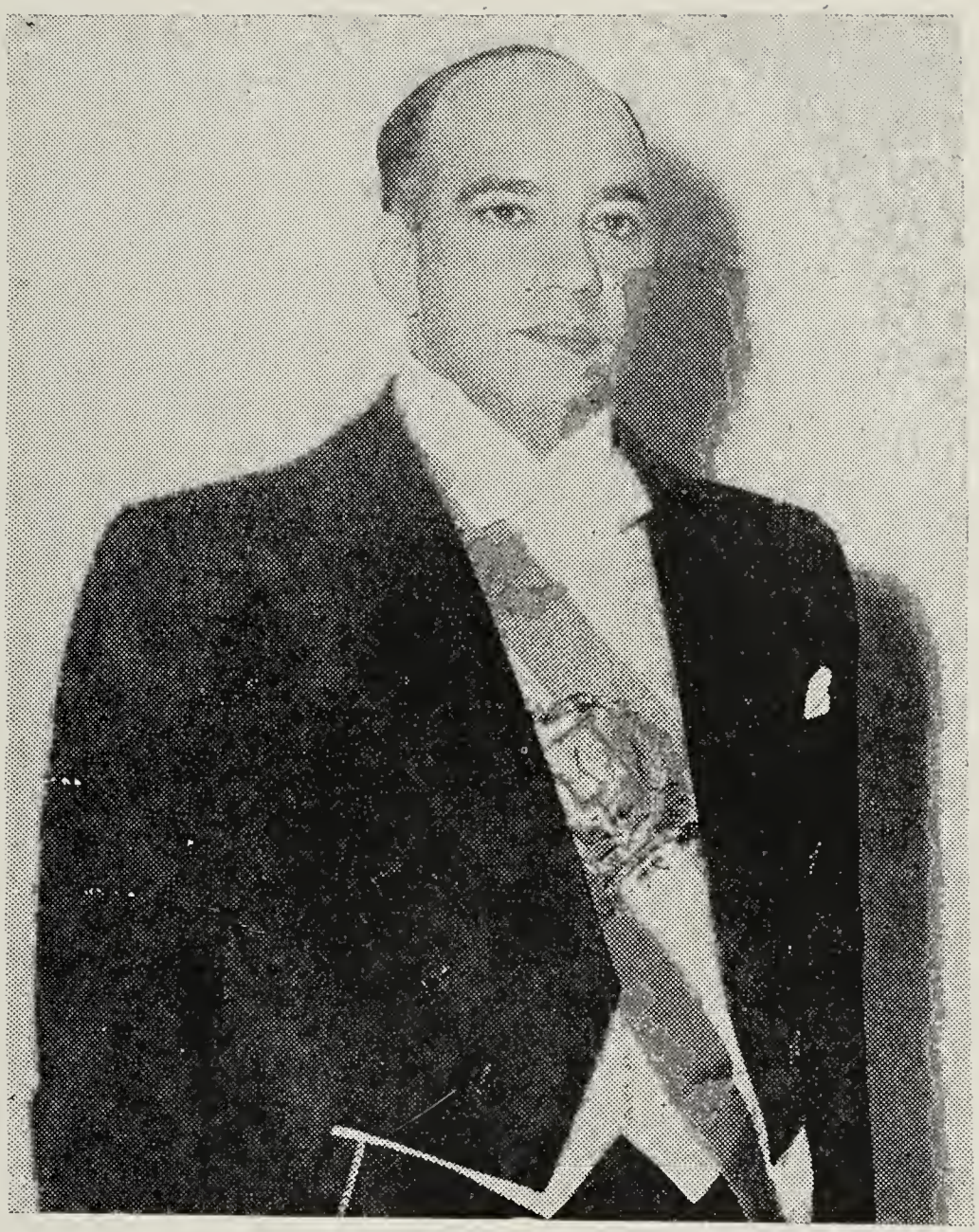
As a transitional measure, pending the appointment of the justices and other officers of the Tribunal, the "Cámara de Cuentas" will serve the functions of the Administrative Tribunal and the Permanent Solicitor those of the General Administrative Solictior.

Land Courts

The Dominican Republic has Land Courts which excercise jurisdiction over real estate matters, especially those involving land measurements, partitions and the clearance of property deeds under the Law of the Registration of Lands.

The tribunals are made up of the Courts of Original Jurisdiction and the Superior Land Court.

Since the approval of the Law on the Registration of Lands and the establishment of the corresponding courts, the services of registration and clearance of real estate have received especial attention from the Government, giving the Dominican people the advantages resulting from the permanent solution of the intricate problems of common lands which for many years constituted a block in the development of the country's agriculture and other important facets of the nation's economy.



His Excellency Gen. Héctor B. Trujillo Molina, President of the Dominican Republic.

View of the National Palace in the Dominican Capital

Electoral Assemblies

Since the establishment of the Dominican Republic in 1844, every male citizen over eighteen years of age has had the right to vote. In 1942 a constitutional amendment gave women conditions of citizenship with the consequent right to suffrage.

On certain occasions the Constitution of the Republic has been amended to permit the election of the President and of members of the National Congress by indirect vote, but generally, and this is so at the present time, these officers are elected by direct vote.

The elections are carried out through Electoral Assemblies pre-

sided over by the Central Electoral Board, which maintains, for the duration of the elections, control over the armed forces and bears the responsibility for the maintenance of public order. The Electoral Assemblies elect the President of the Republic, Senators, Deputies, councilmen, their alternates, "síndicos" and any other public officers designated by law.

Racial Composition

The almost total extinction of the aborigines who inhabited Hispaniola in the days of the Discovery and the resultant shortage of manpower to work the mines and develop agriculture was responsible for the first importing of African slaves to the West Indian island.

After the cession to France of the western part of the island the increasing prosperity brought about by the French colonists —Haiti, at that time became the richest foreign possession in the Western Hemisphere— led to increased slave imports. The opposite was true in the Spanish part of the island where the neglected state of mining and agriculture made poverty a byword.

Consequently, the inhabitants of African descent were dominant in the western part (today the Republic of Haiti, while in the Eastern part, now the Dominican Republic, their number diminished and fused with the Spaniards. The result was a racial mixture of different characteristics: the Dominican of today who is well adapted to the conditions of his land.

Thus, while in the western part of Hispaniola occupied by Haiti, the Negro race represents more than 90 per cent of the population, in the Dominican Republic the percentage of Negroes including foreign residents was 19.4 in 1935. Excluding foreign residents, the percentage was down to 16.2. According to the 1950 census the population of the Dominican Republic is made up of the following:

White	28.14%
Mulatto	60.36
Negro	11.47
Oriental	0.03
Total	100.00%

Religion

The Constitution of the Dominican Republic decrees the freedom of conscience and of religion.

Former Jesuit Monastery is headquarters for Government Offices in Ciudad Trujillo.

Although the religion of the State is Roman Catholic —so long as a majority of its inhabitants profess that faith, as expressly stated in the Constitution— there is absolute freedom of worship and several other churches are established in the country.

Up to the present the Dominican Republic has never had a religious problem as has been the case in other Latin countries. Although themselves long devoted to the Roman Catholic Church, the people are extremely tolerant of other faiths.

The Vatican is officially represented by an Apostolic Nuncio. The Catholic Church of the Dominican Republic is presided over by an Archbishop, Primate of the Americas, with the See in Ciudad Trujillo, capital of the Republic.

Recently the Pope created two Bishoprics, one in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, the other in Concepción de La Vega. The Cathedral Primate of the Americas, a true architectural jewel, was elevated to a Basilica (de Santa María la Menor) a few years ago; under its arches a beautiful marble musoleum

holds the remains of Christopher Columbus, Great Admiral of the Ocean Sea, Discoverer of America.

The Catholic Church has many temples, built in the days of the Conquistadores which are architectural marvels. The Protestant Church has also built important churches and hospitals.

The Dominican Republic has opened wide its doors, taking into consideration the country's capacity and resources, to all the people persecuted in their own countries for religious reasons. Many of them, especially of the Jewish faith, are now living harmoniously with the Dominicans and are dedicated to a variety of activities .

At the Conference of Evian held in 1938, at the initiative of Generalissimo Trujillo who was then President of the Republic, haven was offered to 100,000 European immigrants without distinction as to religious creed. The offer stands and the country's doors are still open for anyone wishing to take advantage of it.

Housing

According to the 1950 census the Dominican Republic had 430,652 dwellings of which 110,039 were located in urban zones and 320,613 in rural zones. Although the main cities have many residential buildings with several stories, the great majority are one-story buildings. The exception is Ciudad Trujillo which has a great number of modern edifices. Concrete, bricks, blocks and adobe are widely used as construction materials in the cities while rural structures are built largely of native woods.

Under a Plan of Social Betterment the Government is providing workers with modern, hygienic housing which they acquire in accordance with their ability to pay. This quinquennial plan calls for the construction of 25,000 dwellings in various cities of the Dominican Republic.

The workers' homes built by the Government in Ciudad Trujillo, Santiago, San Pedro de Macoris, San Cristobal, Bani, Azua, Barahona and elsewhere, are equipped with all modern conveniences, and the projects include schools, gardens, hospitals, nurseries, aqueducts and transportation within easy reach.

The remains of Christopher Columbus are in an urn which is exhibited every year on October 12. This beautiful Marble monument houses the funeral urn.

Chuch of the former Monastery of the Dominican Friars. The Monastery played an important role in the history of Spanish America, as it was among its friars that the fist protest rose in 1511 gainst the slavery of the Indians.

Palace of the Dominican Political Party in Ciudad Trujillo.

Dress

The inhabitants of the main urban centers of the Dominican Republic dress like their counterparts in any of the important cities of America, wearing mainly light materials in view of the tropical characteristics of the island's climate. Between April and October the men wear linen and cotton suits. After October you are more likely to see people in woolen garments. This, however, is not a fixed rule since neither in the coastal regions which are almost at sea level or in the mountainous regions of the interior is the climate as rigorous as in other countries.

Usually, the urban worker wears cotton trousers with a shirt and jacket of the same material. In the country, especially if working in the fields, laborers usually wear denim or khaki pants.

In the country, women are garbed in cotton for ordinary wear. On holidays or when visiting the "city", they sport their best as women in any other country do.

Character

The average Dominican is proud of his lineage. In the past he has had to struggle long and hard against foreign intervention and invasion but in the end succeeded in getting rid of both, thus conserving his religion, his language and the treasure of his liberty. The Dominican is extremely hospitable, industrious and has little inclination for roving, characteristics which make for his attachement to the land. He is of a gay disposition and loves music and dancing. Women love their homes and take pride and joy in their housewifely duties.

Political Parties

Until a few years ago there was only one political party in the Dominican Republic— the Dominican Political Party founded and directed by Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo Molina. In 1930, as a consequence of the change which took place in the political life of the country, the old political parties were dissolved. The National Party and the National Citizens' Coalition as well as a few scattered groups got together under a Confederation of Parties which backed Generalissimo Trujillo for the Presidency.

Aware that an organized country could not be governed without a well-established political organization, Trujillo then created the most powerful political party in the history of the Republic — the Dominican Political Party — whose rosters in-

Workmen pour cement for model cottages

Each cottage has Hollywood styling, electricity, etc...

View of a street in the worker's quarters.

clude the vast majority of Dominican citizens.

Recently two new political parties have participated in election campaigns: the Labor Party formed by some members of the working class, and the National Democratic Party. Both parties received slight support electing some members to both Houses of Congress and local governments in the provinces.

Labor Legislation

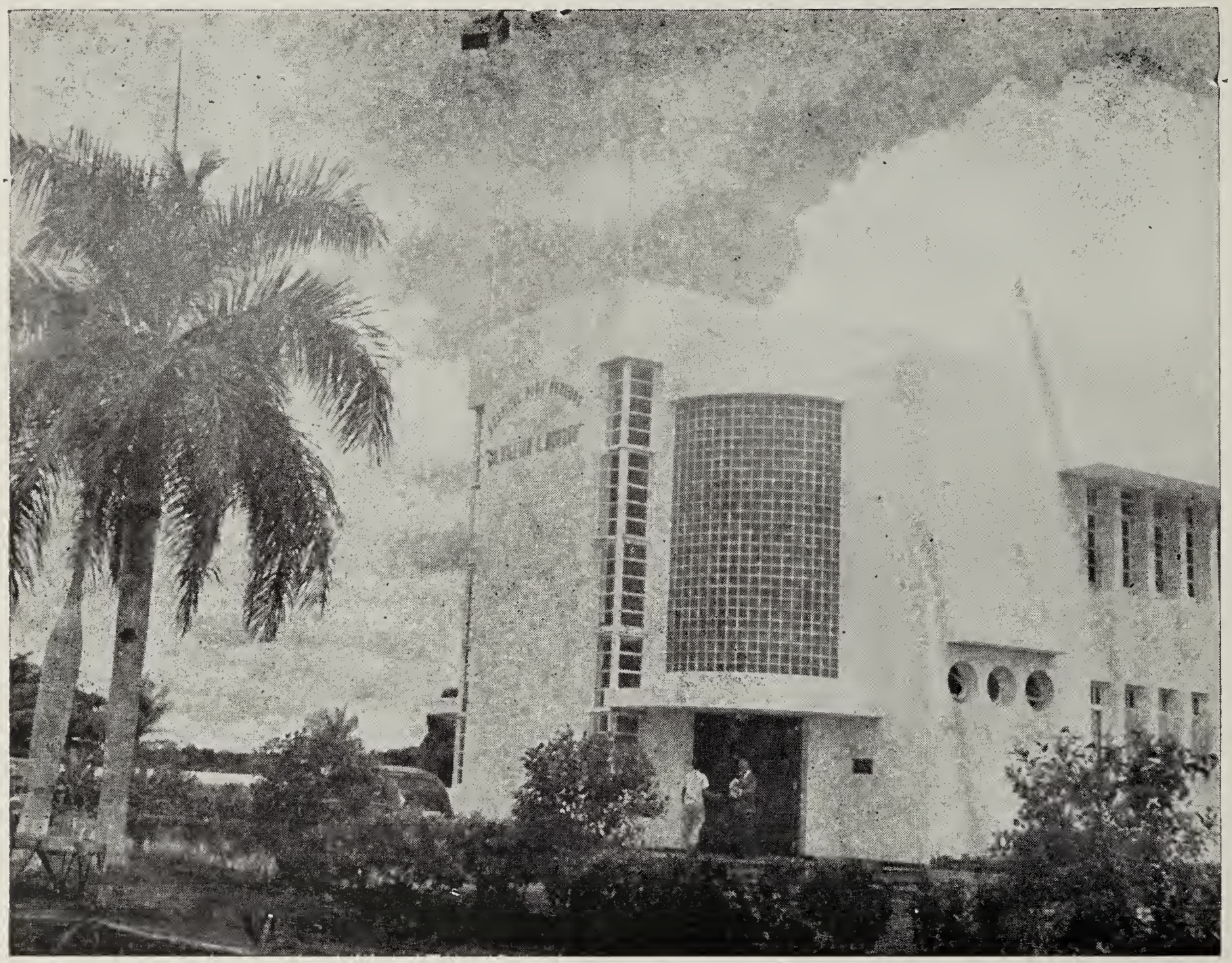
The present Government has passed legislation in favor of the workers, placing the Dominican Republic among the nations that give its working classes their just recognition as an important segment of society, without whose participation a modern state is inconceivable. A few years ago the Government established the eight-hour day and the forty-eight hour week. To help poor farmers the Administration began the distribution of state-owned lands which has resulted in the apportionment of more than 150,000 acres among 100,000 agricultural workers.

Afterwards, the Government approved laws providing vacations with pay for public employees, commercial employees and salaried workers in general. These laws went into effect in the summer of 1940 and in 1941. Public and commercial employees are entitled to two-week vacations every year. The former must spend their leave in any part of the Republic to stimulate the development of tourism within the country.

Congress has also adopted laws regulating salaries, which have resulted in the over-all improvement of living standards.

The construction of workers' housing projects is one of the most outstanding social welfare programs ever carried out in the Dominican Republic. The projects can well compete with any housing projects anywhere on the American continent.

Workers who lease these Government-sponsored houses, with electricity and modern sanitation, own their concrete-built homes after paying monthly rents of $14 to $24 for ten years.



SOCIAL PROGRESS

IN 1947, there was created in the Dominican Republic by proposal of former President, Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, the Department of Social Welfare— the first cabinet post of its kind in the history of national governments in the Western Hemisphere— to provide for workers and to stimulate a consciousness of social betterment in national life. This Department has since been changed to the Department of Public Health and Social Welfare.

The Department administrates the old age pensions, low cost housing, social security and insurance laws, establishment of homes for the aged, orphans, invalids and the needy, medical stations and training schools. It also maintains a charity organization and keeps tabs on factory and farm working conditions. In its growth this undertaking parallels the strides made in building schools and envisions a large scale education program which began in 1930.

According to official figures released in 1951, a total of $164,523 was paid in the form of sickness and convalescence benefits. There were 287 death benefits and funeral expenses payments made. Maternity benefits were paid to 2,075 mothers. Sickness compensation benefits went to 22,515 persons. With a population of 2,135,872 in the country, some 475,487 persons in all applied for 1,254,495 medical and dental treatments.

The progress of the Dominican Republic in the field of public welfare has been largely achieved during recent years. A series of governmental measures to put the country's sanitary services, hospitals, clinics, etc., on a par basis with the most modern in any other country, have resulted in the establisment of well equipped hospitals, a Cancer Institute, laboratories, orphanages and other institutions of that kind.

With 31 hospitals and maternity clinics and first aid stations in every part of the country the Dominican Republic is well ahead in the development of its program to provide the largest possible measure of protection to its people.

Maternity Leave

Under the social security program, women on maternity leave, receive

free medical assistance and one-half of their salary for six weeks. For eight months after the birth of the child, the mother receives ten per cent of her weekly salary and the baby is given free medical attention.

The Department of Labor and Social Welfare does not wait for patients to come to hospitals for treatment. Mobile clinics travel throughout the country to places where hospitals have not yet been established. Familiar white vans equipped with X-ray and dispensary rumble over the roads on a time-table schedule, providing medical aid right on the doorsteps of remote farm houses.

As for the hospitals themselves, Dr. Robert Wallis of New York City, who in 1952 visited a number of Dominican hospitals as a member of a group of prominent physicians making a goodwill tour under the auspices of the World Medical Association, described the workers' hospital, the Cancer Institute and the Children Tuberculosis Sanitarium as "having the best up-to-date equipment anywhere and very competent manageemnt. Most noticeable was the alertness of their staffs in utilizing new techniques."

Pension at Sixty

ONE of the most outstanding benefits of this Social Security system is its retirement plan. A worker may retire at 60 with a 40 per cent of his monthly salary. If he has worked steadily during his life his retirement allowance will be even greater. He receives an additional two per cent of his monthly salary for every 100 weeks he worked and in some cases he receives nearly 100 per cent of his monthly salary for the rest of his life.

If he is permanently incapacitated by sickness or injuries he receives 40 per cent of his monthly wages for life. When he dies, his dependents receive up to $80 to defray funeral expenses and one-third of his yearly salary is given to the family.

The Government's laws to benefit the workers have culminated in the promulgation and adopttion of the "Trujillo Labor Code" which is considered a model of legislation to protect labor.

Education and the Arts

THE Dominican Republic's educational organization is governed by the Organic Law for Education (Public Law No. 2909, of June 5, 1951), the Law on Primary and Compulsory Education (Public Law No. 2962, of June 24, 1951) and the Law of Organization of the University of Santo Domingo.

"If the strength and civilization of a nation depend on the education of its people, then the next quarter

View of one of the modern buildings of the University of Santo Domingo.

Dominicans now have modern schoolhouses like the one pictured above.

century should see the Dominican Republic as internally strong as any country in the Western Hemisphere," recently wrote an American newspaper man visiting the Caribbean nation.

Public education has progressed by leaps and bounds during the last 10 years. The Government then began a three-pronged campaign against illiteracy and under the present program soon every child in a city or town will have at least a grade school education, will have a smattering of English, an every child in the rural areas will know how to read, write, figure and express himself in Spanish, and will have instruction in agricultural or manual arts.

School Houses

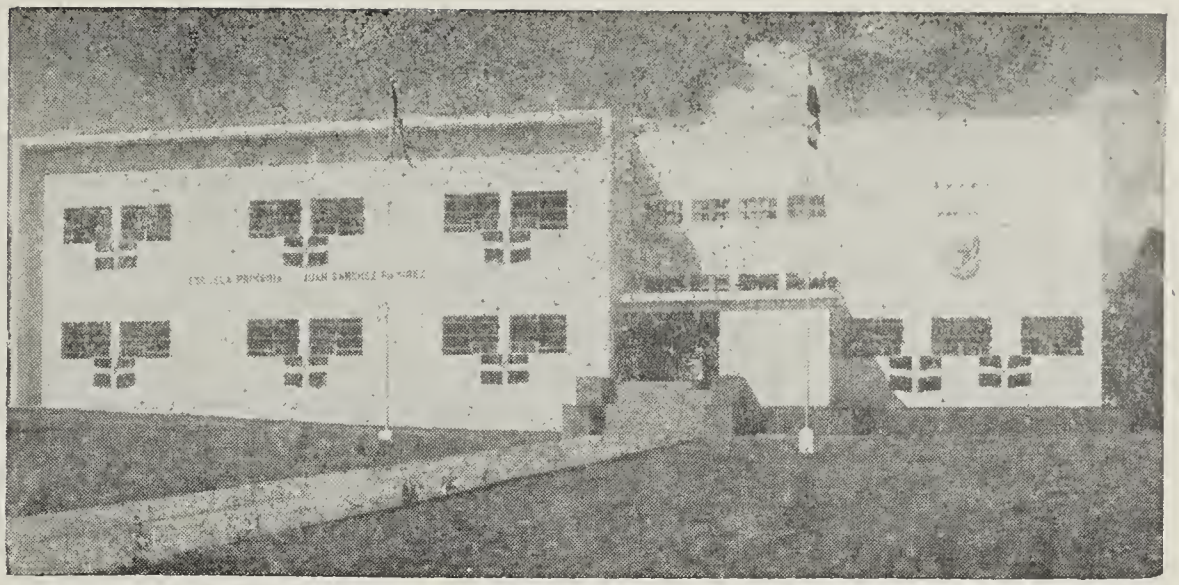
The initial phase of the Two-Year School Construction Plan ended last year with the inauguration of thirty-five school houses built and equipped at a cost of $3,394,374.33.

The drive for adult literacy, initiated by Generalisimo Trujillo in 1952 ,is making considerable headway. There are now 4,054 courses

This building located in Villa Duarte, across the river from the Dominican Capital can accomodate over 1,200 pupils.

in progress with an enrollment of 91,974 adults. Attendance in 1953 was 76 per cent. Up to now, 39,871 grown-ups have been taught at least two of the three R's. The drive is being supplemented by a "Free University", which gives those who have an elementary education an opportunity to increase their knowledge and acquire additional skills.

In addition to the appropriation for the Two-Year School Construction Plan, a total of $4,776,337.70 was made available in 1953 to the National Educational Service. The $379,472.60 increase over the 1952 appropriation permitted the establishmnet of forty-five additional emergency schools in rural regions and the expansion of existing facilities in city schools.



Building for the "Juan Sánchez Ramírez" school another one constructed under Generalissimo Trujillo's Biennial Plan.

School Housing Program

Generalissimo Trujillo's two-year school construction program, designed to put every school under a roof of its own is being pushed energetically by President Hector B. Trujillo. At a total outlay of $6,500,000, 85 new school houses have been or are being built. Another $3,500,000 has been set aside for the National Fine Arts Palace, now under construction, and a "City of Sports" whose stadium will hold 25,000 fans.

As manual training and agriculture management are required in the rural elementary schools, so is some training in home economics required of girls in schools in cities and towns where facilities are available and where such courses will serve to prepare young women students for future homemaking that is still the primary aim of a girl's life in the Republic. Cooking, sewing and home accounting are necessary courses for graduation from grade school.

More thorough training in domestic science and home economics is offered in an unusual school in the capital, Ciudad Trujillo. This school established for several years now, prepares girls for domestic service, gives its graduates from the six-month course certificates of satisfactory training, and sends them readily into domestic positions where they can command better wages than untrained domestic help. Fifty girls may take the complete domestic science course each six months, learning how to cook, from the simplest foods at first to a full day's meals, by the end of the period. Marketing, budgeting, meal planning, care of the hourse, baby care, laundry, sewing and mending are all part of the regular course.

Circulating libraries in 1953 lent books to 65,503 borrowers, and their reading rooms were frequented by 50,055 individuals. The National Symphony Orchestra gave fifteen concerts in various parts of the country.

Main facade of the "Emilio Prud'homme High School, at Santiago de los Caballeros, the second largest city.

Advanced Program

This is the purpose of the advanced educational program launched by the Dominican government. In cooperation with the government's program, the Inter - American Educational Foundation, operating out of the United States Department Cultural Exchange Program, in several Latin American countries, has instituted an eight-year program for the study of English, which, while it may not make the Dominican people fluent in that language, will certainly put them in a more advantageous position for contact with North America than United States citizens now have in their contact with their Latin neighbors.

The Inter-American Educational Foundation provides teachers of English with detailed teaching aids, adjusted to elementary schools; a library of American books and mag-

azines where teachers of English may come for instruction, ideas and reading matter; and issues regularly an English News Leter with elementary teaching aids and suggested activities to supplement the teaching of children, as well as activities for advanced students.

The program, which embraces education, vocational training and health, and which the Dominican government has made compulsory in the schools of its cities and towns where capable teachers are available, begins in the fifth year of grade school and continues through the four years of high or normal school. The classes are not limited to the young student just beginning his schooling, but also to adults in special schools, who want to advance their education.

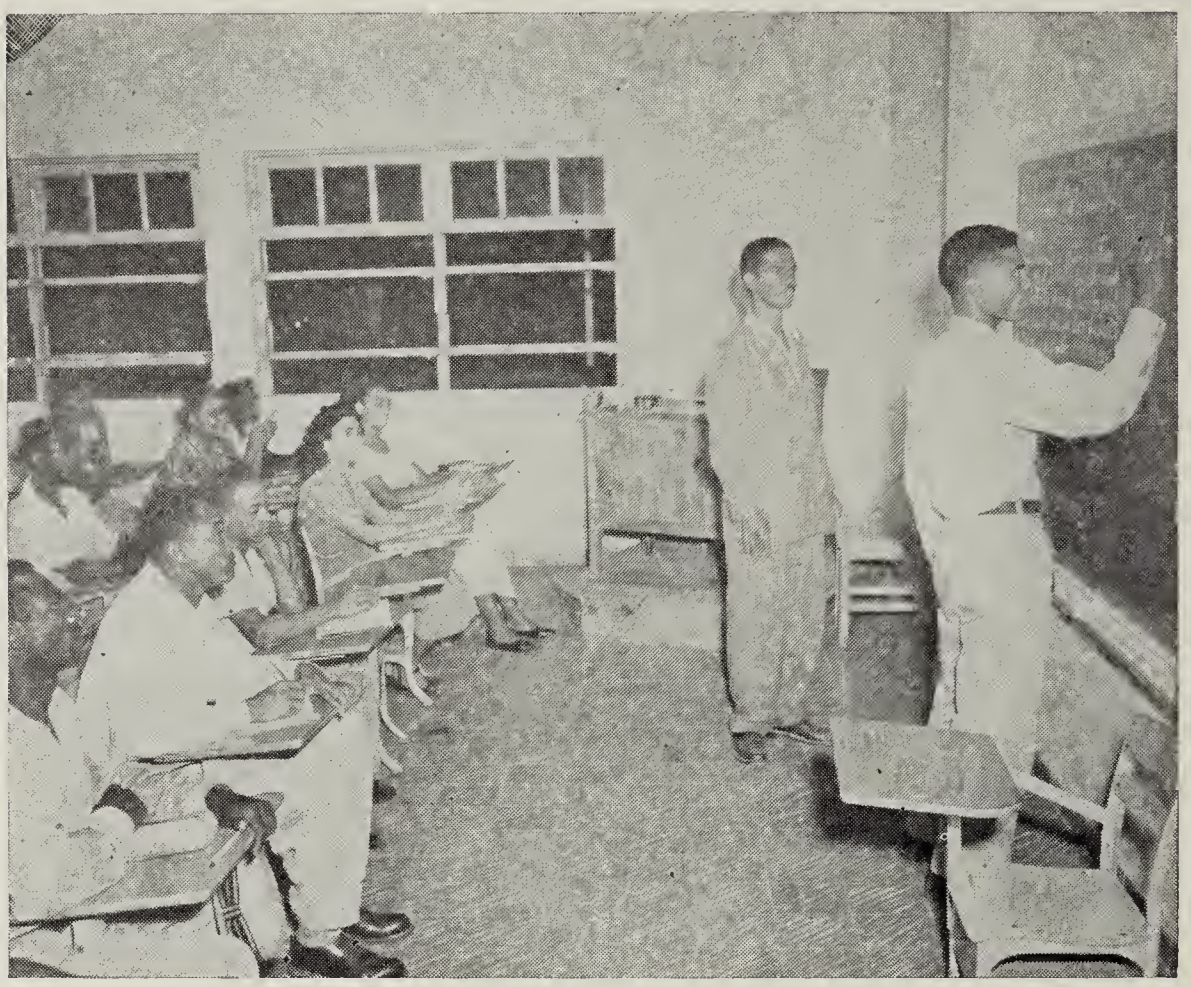
Anti-Illiteracy Drive

THE Trujillo Anti-Illiteracy Campaign continues to chalk up educational gains in remote parts of the Republic. Launched several years ago to bring at least two of the three R's to that segment of the population which was adult when Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo set up emergency schools in mountain hamlets and outposts along the border, the drive's 4,345 Units, mostly staffed by volunteer teachers, are currently attended by 106,625 grown-ups. Its aim is to stamp out illiteracy in the Dominican Republic completely within the next five years.

In 1930, there were 50,000 students in the Republic's schools, most of these in towns and cities. In 1946, the number had increased to 225,000 —nearly a quarter of a million in a country of slightly over two million inhabitants. As of March 1, 1954, total enrollment in the Republic's 6,758 public schools was 355,289. Enrollment in the 1,229 emergency grammar schools totalled 67,333 pupils; in the 931 rural grammar schools, 98,424; and in the 263 urban elementary and intermediate schools, 79,162.The country's 55 high schools were attended by 8,387 students, the 93 trade schools by 6,211, while 95,772 students were enrolled in the 4,187 special schols. Teachers numbered 5,402.

Education is Compulsory

Schooling is compulsory to the age of fourteen. After that, normal or high school is a matter of choice and availability.



This is one of the emergency schools set up by the Dominican Republic under Generalissimo Trujillo's Anti-Illiteracy Campaign. Mostly staffed by volunteer teachers, the aim of the drive is to stamp out illiteracy.

Apart from the semi-official and private schools, principally church schools, the university is the only educational institution in the Republic which requires a tuition fee, and this is relatively low by U. S. standards. The University of Santo Domingo offers a broad field of learning, and until very recently its professional schools have been more popular and more heavily attended than its general arts department. Women attend the university and all of its professional departments on an equal basis with men, and have been graduated from there for more than 50 years. Strangely enough, they graduate in the professions more ofen than in general arts, and there are women doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, engineers and architects at work in the Republic whose entire education was gained in their own country.

Center of Caribbean Education

ENTRANCE to the University is gained by satisfactory grades in normal school. Old and honored, the University of Santo Domingo has been the Center of Caribbean higher education for centuries and attracts students from all the West Indies Islands. Scholarships are granted after the first year for outstanding grades and ability.

The Ciudad Universitaria (University City) in a development north of Ciudad Trujillo, is a handsome community of structures, modern, efficient, but with a definitely academic atmosphere and its faculty is of distinctly high caliber. Some refugee authorities and educators, from Spain and from middle Europe, occupy chairs of importance on the faculty.

Religion is not required or taught in the public schools of the Dominican Republic. Private or church schools both Catholic and Protestant, make their own curricula without interference from the government.

Cultural Revivial

A CULTURAL revival of notable proportions is now taking place in the Dominican Republic in all fields of art and cultural development. The Secretariat of Education also includes that of Fine Arts... Not that the country has not had a rich culture through its entire history, but in the face of upset internal

conditions during the past three or four centuries, that culture was not stable in its development, or at least not in the recording of its development. Anyone who visits the country now, or sits in any group of educated people there, or notes in various other ways the interest in music, painting, national literature in the larger cities cannot but be impressed with this revival of culture and the rich background that has contributed to it.

This background is evident in small but distinctive proofs of early crafts, in the universal fondness for music and in the country-wide enthusiasm for dancing and the national dance—*the merengue.* The study of folklore and music has taken a spurt among intellectual people and a crop of well annotated and printed collections, published on the most elegant paper, has made its appearance in the last few years.

Government archives are not only stocked with official government reports from the various departments —a lasting record of what is being done in the country, but also with notable editions of studies and collections of national literature. This resurgence of interest in the past cultural achievements of the country is keeping pace with current cultural developments, and the government as well as intellectual researchers, are aiming to get this material down in fresh, available form.

Aerial view of the capital city of the Dominican Republic.

A flower-drenched city which retains much of the quaintness of the Old World, Ciudad Trujillo offers many attractions. Tourists walk through a garden admiring the handiwork of the city's souvenir vendors.

Symphony Orchestra

In Ciudad Trujillo, the National Symphony Orchestra has been established for many years and plays regularly during the winter season. It also maintains a supplementary summer season and has developed a repertoire of more than 100 classical works familiar to most orchestra goers. The orchestra makes a point of presenting Dominican music of quality during both seasons.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

AN eighty per cent of the working population of the Dominican Republic devotes itself to tilling the soil, and some 95 per cent of the country's exports, including the big four —sugar, cocoa, coffee and tobacco— come from its plantations and farms.

Notwithstanding efforts to swing away from economic dependence on the big four by fostering industry and by diversifying crops, the Republic's standard of living and its economy are still tied to the export value of these crops. To offset this dependence, the Dominican Government has undertaken an intensive program of agricultural reform, and great strides have been made in opening new land for cultivation, in introducing more modern methods, in improving crops and livestock, and in encouraging the development of crops less subject to market variations than the big four.

Modern irrigation methods have made tillable land available to farmers.

Irrigation Aids Farming

To accomplish this, the Dominican Government built irrigation canals, experimental stations for agriculture and livestock, made tillable land available free to farmers, and encouraged cooperative farm colonies. This program increased the yield of the standard crops, and developed crops less susceptible to the vagaries of the export market.

Irrigation of lands hitherto unproductive was one of the largest factors contributing to the success of the program. In 1930 there was but one irrigation canal feeding the country's copious water supply to farming land, and the acreage thus watered amounted to 7,542. Now there are sixty-three such canals, bringing water to 234,230 acres. This has made possible not only greatly increased production of all crops but large-scale cultivation of new ones, such as rice.

Farmers who had holdings of only an acre or two were encouraged to expand their land under cultivation. The Government cleared land for them, made water available and set them up in their new enterprise by giving them seeds, instructions and making available to them community farm machinery. New methods were taught them, and an opportunity to expand their holdings and make them independent was provided by a system of loans through the republic's Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank.

Big Increase Shown

In seven years, from 1935 to 1952, a total of 526,956 acres of such land, irrigated, plowed and ready for planting, was distributed among 101,378 farmers. They were encouraged to plant improved varieties of the basic crops and to try new ones, not only for a variation in diet but also to broaden the base of agricultural exports.

The plan worked. The Dominican Republic now exports regularly rice, beans, plantains, bananas, fresh fruit and many vegetables.

Farm colonies— sections throughout the country deemed suitable for farming and developed by the government for distribution to farmers —have shown a tremendous increase. In 1930 there was but one such colony, with 909 farmers who with their families made up 3,611 persons cultivating a total of 3,220 acres.

Today there are fifty such colonies scattered throughout the country. There are 13,312 farmers tilling 130,541 acres, and the total of colony inhabitants is 58,639. The government is planning still more colonies in land now unirrigated and uncultivated.

These fifty colonies alone have 11,685 head of cattle, 23,308 pigs, 11,046 goats, 1,773 sheep, 11,759

mules, donkeys and horses, and the poultry count is 167,464. In 1952 the value of the colonies yield amounted to $8,555,525.

In 1937 mechanization was begun with the acquisition of equipment that could be used free by the needy farmers. In 1942 and 1943 about $750,000 worth of farm machinery was bought, but the purchasing steadily increased. Between 1950 and 1952 the government spent $2,361,-847 on farm machines such as tractors, harvesters, mowers, driers, huskers and the like. Thirteen centers throughout the country provide machines fo farmers, and see to their care.

In experimental substations located near the colonies, new varieties suitable for subtropical cultivation are tried out. As a result, more and beter sugar cane is grown, the tobacco yield has increased and the quality has improved; cotton and sisal are grown not only for local consumption but for export; cocoa production is up; pineapples and grapes are grown in increasing quantities and a reforestation program is underway.

Irrigation has contributed to the success of the Dominican Republic's agricultural development program. The Republic now has more than 60 irrigation canals bringing water to 235,000 acres, and making possible large-scale cultivation of rice and other products previously imported.

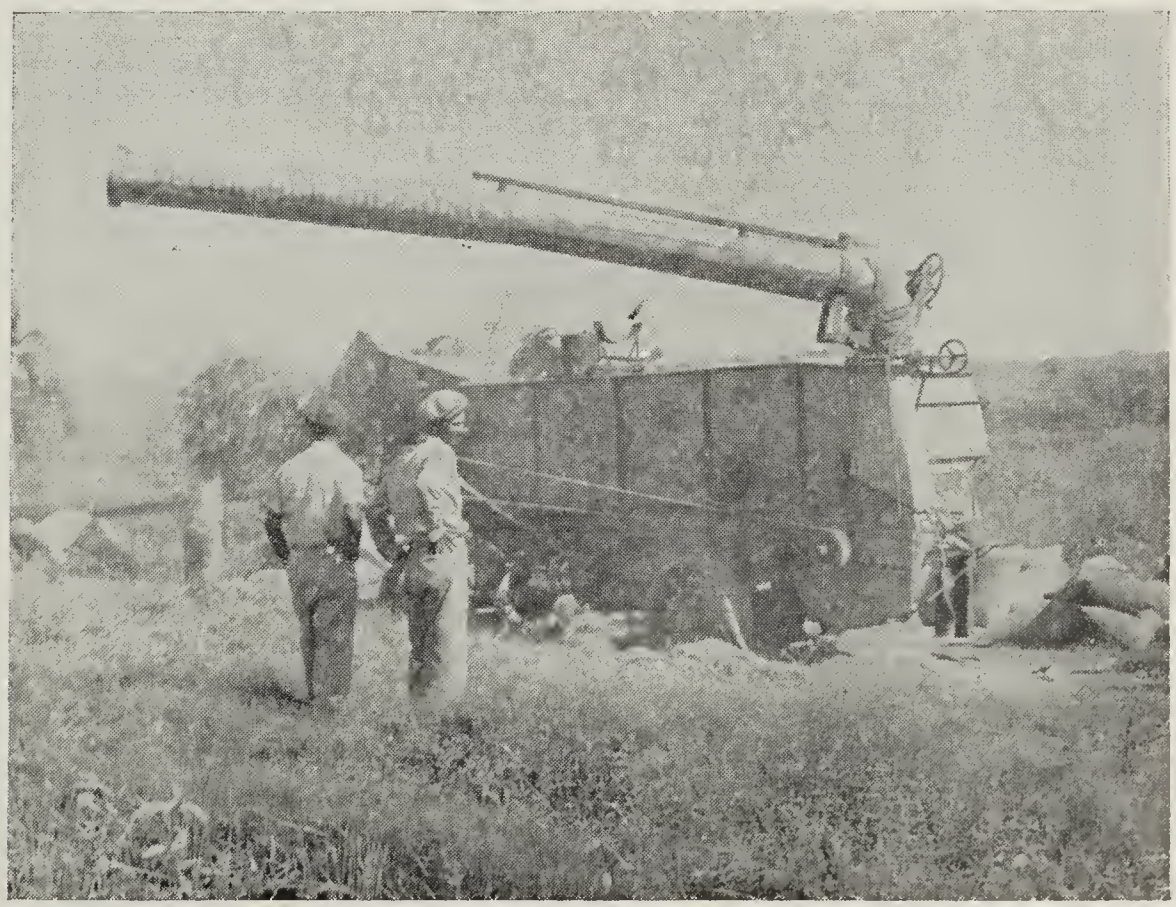
Surplus for Export

Other products that have been developed to the point where there is a surplus for export include rubber, plums, nuts and subtropical fruits.

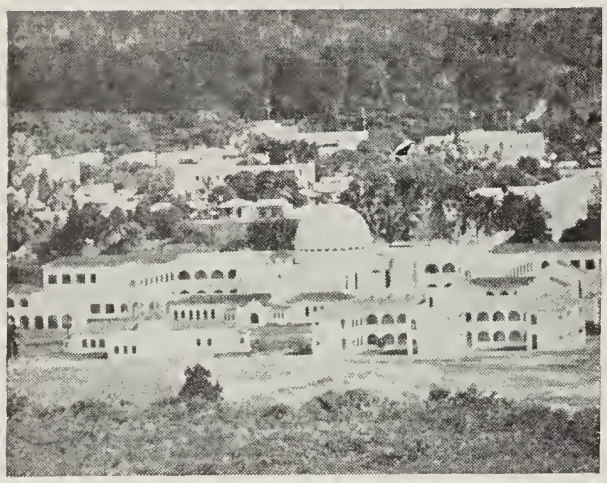
With irrigation making more water available and experiments in grass improving the pastures, cattle raising has become one of the largest factors in the agricultural system. The government has brought in pure-bred strains which farmers are free to breed with native cattle, and the herds are increasing not only in number but in quality.

Strengthening the whole program is intensive research into preventives for the various tropical diseases crops and animals are susceptible to. The newest in insecticides, antitoxins and other counter-measures are still tested, and if found effective, are given as wide distribution as possible.

ALTHOUGH the population of the Dominican Republic has increased by 656,455 or 44. 3 per cent in fifteen years, the national income has kept pace with and is actually ahead of the increase in population, which reflects the growing prosperity of the Caribbean coun-



This McCormick thresher and binding machine is typical of the modern farm equipment which the government has provided to Dominican farmers.



Farmers are helped in many ways by the Dominican Department of Agriculture, which is building this new agricultural institute at a cost of 1½ million dollars to train young men and women in modern, scientific farm production.

try. Estimated at $450,000,000, the current national income is more than double that of 1946. The per capita income, too, is higher today, notwithstanding the growth in population.

(According to the 1950 national census, the population of the Dominican Republic was 2,135,872, its area, 18,704 square miles. The density is 114.2 per square mile, as compared with 76.6 per square mile in 1935 and 46.9 per square mile in 1920. This makes the Dominican Republic the most densely populated country in Latin America, with the exception of Puerto Rico, Cuba, El Salvador and Haiti.)

The expansion of the country's productive capacity is best illustrated by the increase in the nation's exports, which in 1953 rose 138 per cent by volume above those of 1948. By value, they jumped from $18,643,302 in 1939 to $104,233,605 in 1953.

The increase in the country's exportable surplus is all the more remarkable when one takes into account that the growth in population and a higher national income have raised domestic consumption.

Crop Diversification

What made this rise in the nation's exports possible is the intensive agricultural development which the country has undergone in the last twenty years. Today, the cultivated area of the Dominican Republic exceeds 20 per cent, whereas the average for the rest of Latin America is a mere three per cent, according to a 1948 survey by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As a result of this development, the Dominican Republic has become self-sufficient in some foodstuffs.

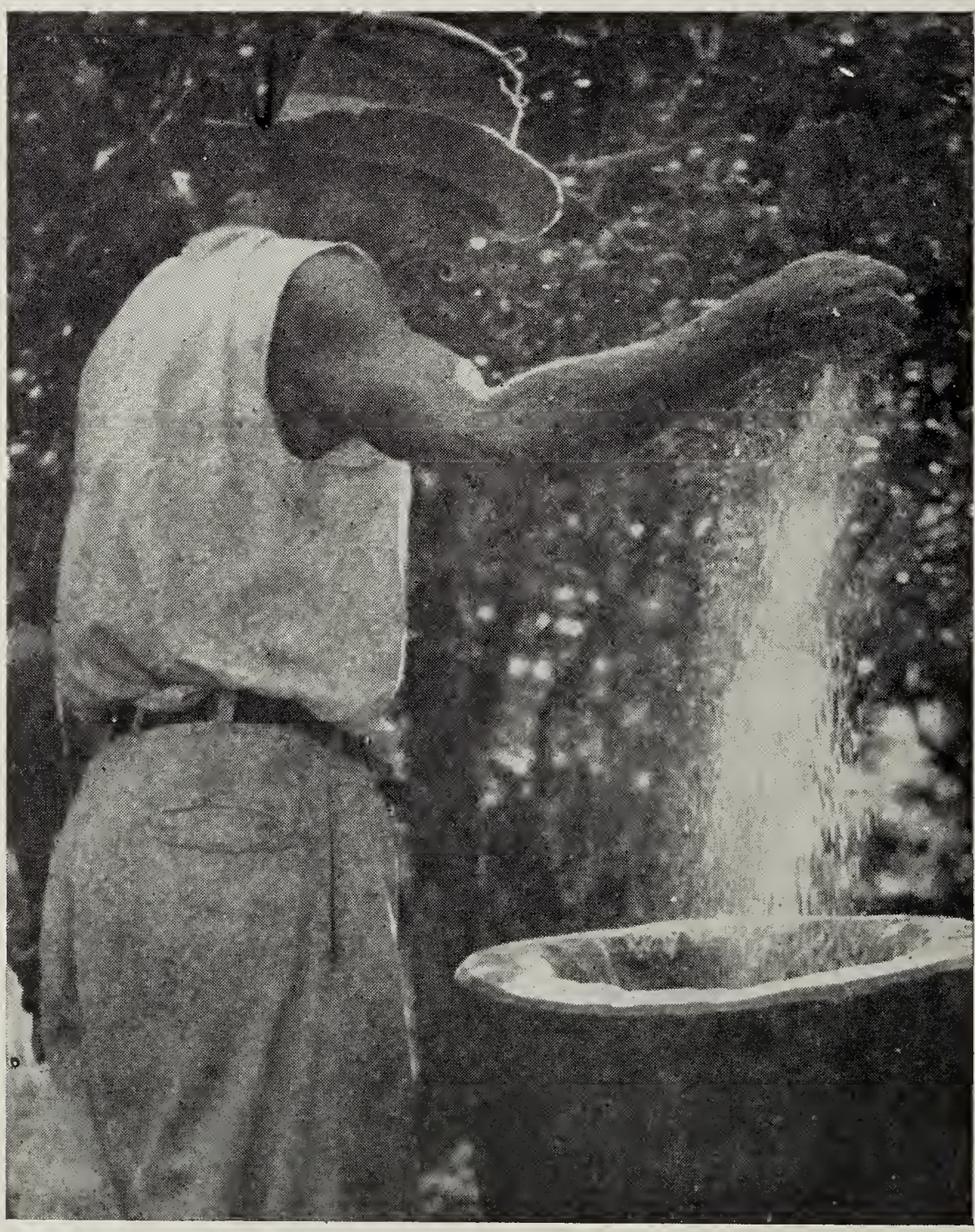
An example is rice. Of this important food staple, the Dominican Republic in 1930 imported 24,140 short tons. Today, it grows rice on such a scale as to supply domestic needs and have an exportable surplus left over. Dominican rice production in 1952 was 55,750 short tons, worth $12,246,874.

The example of rice has been duplicated by coffee, cacao, tobacco, bananas, edible oils and meat, whose stepped-up production has lessened the country's dependence on foreign sources of supply and, along with that of sugar, increased exports

Domestic and foreign sales of Dominican produce and manufactures, which in 1936 totaled $16,000,000 are now ten times as much. In addition to such export staples as sugar, molasses, cocoa and coffee,, production for the home market includes rice, butter, cheese, flour paste products, fruit preserves and confectionery, wearing apparel, footwear, cotton textiles, furniture, building materials, soap, matches, rum, beer, cigars and cigarettes.

Investments

THE economic progress of the Dominican Republic is due in no small measure to the pumping of funds —both public and private— into the expansion of the means of production. Since the end of World War II, capital investments, year after year, have amounted to roughly 10 per cent of the national gross



A farmer blowing and shelling rice in Hato Mayor, Dominican Republic. Previously an importer of rice, today the country grows it on such a scale as to meet it's own needs and have an exportable surplus for other nations.

Rice paddies near Santiago de los Caballeros

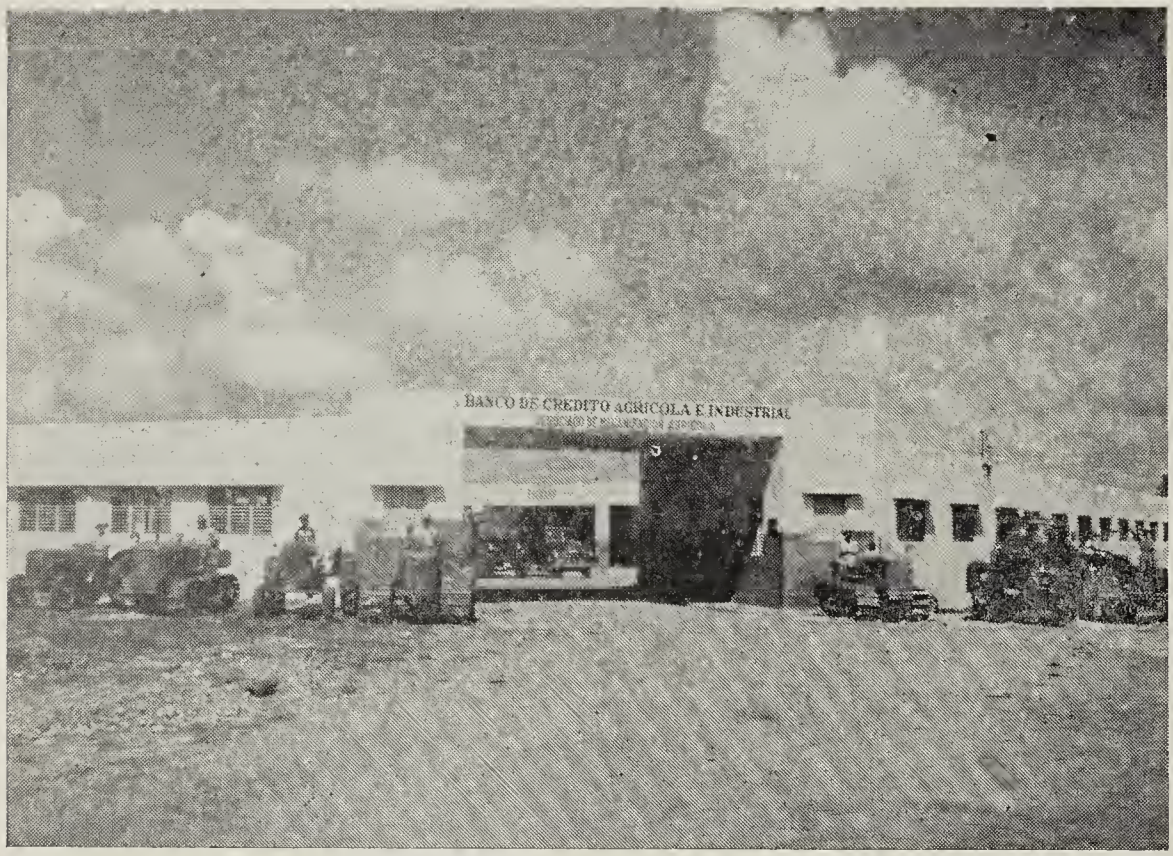
Workers stack and check rice for shipment in a warehouse near Santiago.

income —mostly in public works, such as highways, aqueducts, roads, ports, irrigation canals and agricultural mechanization, but also in manufacturing industries, such as cement, chocolate, textiles, fruit processing, etc.

Investment in Public works, which in 1948 had totaled $12,646,077, was $33,613,000 in 1952 and for 1954 is estimated at $50,000,000.

Private construction rose from $9,355,000 in 1948 to $16,000,000 in 1952. Production of cement had to be rapidly increased to keep up with a domestic demand that in five years more than doubled. Cement consumption in 1948 was 64,165 short tons. In 1952, it had risen to 150,862 short tons.

Investments in modernization or expansion of the sugar industry by Dominican nationals alone exceeded $25,000,000 in a recent four-year period, exclusive of substantial purchases of new tracts of land. The



Under the leadership of Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo, the government's Agricultural and Industrial Bank provides tractors to improve farming methods.

A variety of sugar cane raised by the Secretariat of Agriculture.

1954 crop is expected to yield 569,000 metric tons for export.

Accelerated productive activities are reflected also in the consumption of electricity, which increased from 39,993,175 kilowatts in 1948, to 97,708,343 kilowatts in 1952.

Agricultural Bank

THE Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank of the Dominican Republic is undoubtedly the most important single factor in the country's remarkable agricultural and industrial progress during the last few years. From its founding in 1945 until October, 1953, this state bank extended loans totaling $65,252,377. Half of this amount was for agricultural development and livestock improvement. The other half aided industrial expansion, construction of private dwellings and other undertakings related, directly or indirectly, to the economic development of the country.

Under the Government's irrigation program, large areas of arid and semiarid land have been reclaimed. The availability of water all year 'round has materially increased the productive capacity of the rural areas.

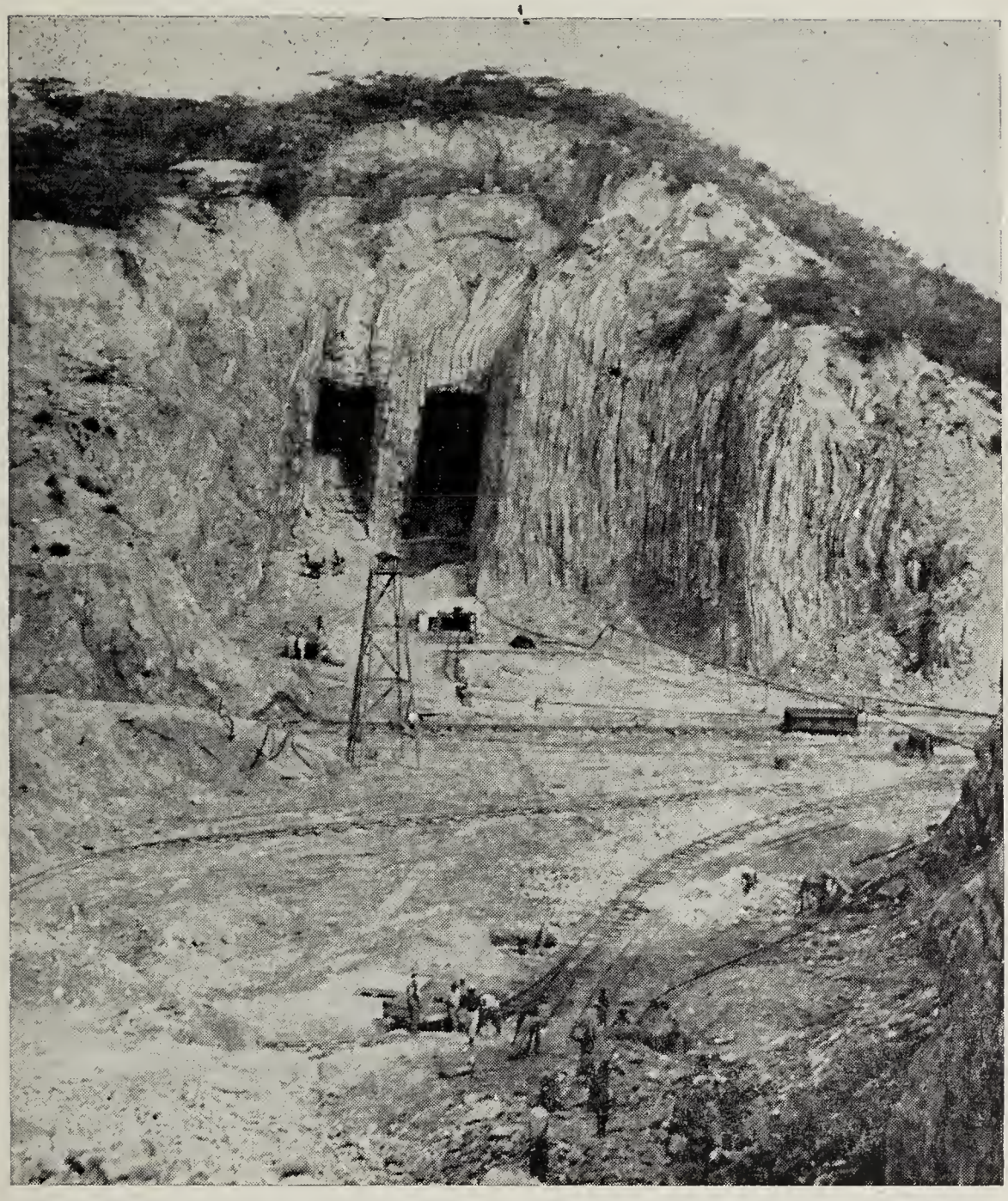
While in 1930, state irrigation canals supplied an area of only 7,470 acres with water, the construction of 50 additional canals by 1952 brought the country's irrigated area to 176,980 acres.

Large-scale irrigation has been paralleled by modernized farming methods and greatly increased production. From 1950 to 1952, 246 tractors were imported at a cost of $2,361,874 In 1953, an additional $1,250,000 worth of agricultural equipment was ordered by the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank, to which the State had meanwhile delegated execution of the agricultural mechanization program.

Industrial Expansion

The Government's industrial development plan encompasses new industries that utilize (a) domestic raw materials in production for the home market, (b) domestic or imported raw materials or semi-finished goods in production primarily for export.

The program is an outgrowth of the Trujillo Plan for Social and Economic Improvement begun in



A view of the biggest block of salt in the world, in Barahona, Dominican Republic. Sheer white cliffs yield salt that is 98% pure. Shipments of salt and gypsum are expected to reach millions of tons in a very near future.

Projected new mill, railroad and elevators nearing completion in Barahona.

in 1937. It has already borne fruit in that many items previously imported are now manufactured locally and eevn exported, and exploitation of the country's mineral resources has begun.

Mining

MINING exploration and mineralogical and geological surveying have been intensified under government auspices. Under a new mining law sponsored by Generalissimo Trujillo, a number of domestic and foreign enterprises have been granted mining concessions. Surveying has centered around iron, pyrite, coal, nickel, chrome, amber, gold, copper, silver and aluminum. The State itself has financed exploitation of the rich salt and gypsum deposits in Barahona Province at an investment of over three million dollars. With the acquisition of new mining machinery, improved transportation machinery, improved transportation and expanded port facilities, processing, hauling and loading operations can now be carried out with a maximum of economy and efficiency. Shipments of salt and gypsum are expected to reach sizeable proportions this year, and it is anticipated that the quarrying of marble, travertine and other ornamental stones will continue on a large scale. Since last year, the quarries are administered by the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank, which in the form of loans is plowing the profits from this operation back into agricultural and industrial development.

Development Commission

Set up last year to foster the development —either by the government or by private initiative— of the means of production, the Development Commission conducts surveys and research, proposes and executes measures designed to encourage private enterprise and stimulate invesment of private capital in economic activities considered in the public interest, and otherwise promotes new industries. It is authorized to acquire existing businesses deemed of importance to the national economy and to operate and expand them. With the prior approval of the Chief Executive, the Commission may set up subsidiaries for specific undertakings, particularly in connection with the government's public works and social and economic betterment programs.

SUGAR

THE Dominican sugar industry is an object lesson in the application of the classical principle of the division of labor and the economic law of comparative costs. By a combination of natural resources and traditional skill, the Dominican Republic produces sugar more efficiently than an industrial country could. For manufactures, on the other hand, the republic continues to depend largely on imports. Thus the exportation of sugar and the importation of manufactured items assume in the Dominican economy the role that investments and savings play in an industrial economy such as that of the United States.

Sugar production constitutes the optimum employment of Dominican resources. The country's soil and climate make it posible to produce sugar at a price that few, if any, of the world's sugar producers could match.

Sugar exports, rather than investments, are the source of the Republic's chief income. For this reason, the Dominican economy, while vulnerable to foreign market fluctuations, is relatively protected against depressions stemming from internal causes. However, the terms on which the Dominican Republic has to trade its sugar for capital and consumer goods reflect the economic unfairness of the great industrial powers to underdeveloped countries —a state of affairs that is at variance with the principle of free access to consumer markets and elimination of artificial trade barriers.

Even though Dominican sugar is being discriminated against by the United States, whose Sugar Act establishes a quota that admits but a trickle to the United States market, the Dominican Republic, far from retaliating by imposing import restrictions and otherwise curtailing free trade, actively promtoes international commerce. The Dominican peso, on a par with the U. S. dollar, is freely convertible. Thus, the Dominican Republic helps other nations achieve and maintain high levels of production, consumption, employment and income.

The sugar industry employs 55,000 people in the Dominican Republic.

To satisfy the sweet tooth of many countries, about 750,000 tons of raw sugar will be bagged and shipped this year by the Dominican Republic.

They even grow their own dollars in the Dominican Republic

THERE are few Latin American nations in which the national currency is at par with the U. S. dollar, but the Dominican Republic is one of them. This statement by itself is not a startling one, unless you examine the country's history. It then becomes nothing short of amazing that economic stability, coupled with an increasingly favorable balance of trade could have been achieved in such a short time. The economic development of the country is self-evident when you exaine the statistics which show a national income of $16,800,000 in 1942 while revenues for 1953 totalled $126,262,014.68.

Along the years not only had the Dominicans to wage war against Spain, Haiti and France but they also had to suffer the consequences of a series of inept leaders whose idea of financing their country's budgets was to borrow from foreign enterprises, negotiating a new loan to pay off old debts. Throughout the nineteenth century and the first three decades of the present one, the Dominican ship of state sailed rudderless. Land was turned over to foreign bondholders, who grew sugar, paid Dominican workers a pittance, and moved to greener pastures whenever the former one had been milked to the last drop.

After Dutch, German and French bondholders pressed their governments to intervene and proposed measures to enforce payments, the United States arranged to control Dominican customs with a view to paying off these European obligations, not to mention those in the States.

This was the situation when Generalissimo Trujillo assumed the Presidency in 1930. The United States controlled all customs. A worldwide depression was in full bloom. Eighteen days after his inauguration, the capital city of Santo Domingo was laid to ruin by a hurricane, with some 2500 persons losing their lives and property damage close to $20,000,000. The country's revenues had dropped from $15,000,000 to less than half, and the Republic faced a foreign debt of $20,000,000.

FACED with an empty public treasury and a tragedy without paralell in the history of the West Indies, Trujillo with great energy undertook the rebuilding of the Primate City of the Americas. The system under which the United States controlled the customs had long been a sore spot among freedom loving Dominicans; under the Trujillo-Hull Treaty signed September 24, 1940, this receivership was ended and the collection of customs restored to the Dominican Government. The two governments agreed to appoint jointly a representative of the bondholders; the Dominican Republic agreed to make sinking-fund and interest payments to this representative.

The terms of the Trujillo-Hull Treaty were followed until June 1947 when the remaining balance of the foreign debt, $10,000,000 was paid off in a lump sum, making the Dominican Republic the first nation in the world to rid itself of foreign debt and foreign bondholders. The first ten million had been paid off in smaller installments between 1930 and 1941. This was topped in 1953 with the announcement that the country had cancelled in full its internal debt.

FOREIGN TRADE

The following table illustrates the development of the Dominican Republic's foreign Trade from 1923 to 1953:

Year	Totals	Imports	Exports	Balance
1923	$44.287,903	$18.245,082	$26,042,821	$ 7,797,739
1924	51,843,467	21,580,571	30,262,896	8,682,325
1925	52,109,663	25,339,052	26,770,611	1,431,559
1926	48,573,404	23,677,544	24,895,871	1,218,338
1927	58,962,783	27,784,014	31,178,769	3,394,755
1928	55,542,468	26,787,940	28,754,528	1,966,588
1929	46,465,941	22,719,444	23,736,497	1,007,053
1930	33,781,060	15,229,219	18,551,841	3,322,622
1931	23,218,924	10,151,762	13,067,162	2,915,400
1932	18,958,614	7,794,343	11,164,271	3,369,928
1933	18,843,770	9,322,688	9,521,082	198,394
1934	23,530,112	10,574,344	12,955,768	2,381,424
1935	25,321,012	9,790,033	15,530,979	5,740,946
1936	25,109,081	9,926,567	15,182,514	5,255,947
1937	29,820,628	11,691,896	18,128,732	6,436,836
1938	26,280,975	11,342,495	14,938,480	3,596,985
1939	30,235,468	11,592,166	18,643,302	7,051,136
1940	28,841,538	10,511,403	18,330,135	7,818,732
1941	28,862,968	11,739,031	17,123,937	5,384,906
1942	31,538,057	11,480,857	20,057,200	8,576,343
1943	50,565,861	14,360,804	36,205,057	21,844,253
1944	78,793,903	18,524,575	60,269,328	41,744,753
1945	61,689,735	19,125,622	43,564,113	25,438,491
1946	94,352,991	27,664,187	66,688,804	39,024,617
1947	RD$136,653,982	RD$53,447,989	RD$83,205,993	$RD29,758,004
1948	148,129,816	65,329,183	82,800,633	17,471,450
1949	119,762,099	46,013,551	73,748,548	27,734,997
1950	130,421,646	43,557,221	86,864,425	43,307,204
1951	167,050,122	58,595,441	108,454,681	49,859,240
1952	211,915,308	96,900,591	115,014,717	18,141,261
1953	188,790,328	84,556,723	104,233,605	19,676,872

New Million-Dollar Headquarters of Banco de Reservas in Ciudad Trujillo.

THE Dominican banking system, one of the most modern found anywhere, was inaugurated seven years ago. Up to that time, the U. S. dollar had been the monetary unit. Realizing the nation would need its own control of money and credit to foster economic growth, Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo appointed a commission of experts to study the situation and report on the best banking system.

As a result of that report, Congress voted into law the present banking system on October 9, 1947.

Peso is Par With Dollar

The government has its "Banco Central," a bank of issue modeled on the American Federal Reserve System. The gold peso is the national monetary unit. It represents 0.888671 grams of gold and is on a par with the United States dollar.

Monetary and credit policies are determined by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank. This board has seen to it that the country maintains a sound currency, which is readily convertible for payments abroad. There are no exchange controls.

In addition, the Dominican Republic has the "Banco de Reservas". This autonomous commercial banking institution has deposits of approximately $69,000,000.

Branches of two leading Canadian banks, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia, help to provide business and individuals with commercial banking facilities.

The Republic also has the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank —"Banco de Crédito Agrícola e Industrial". It is a development and investment bank. It had outstanding loans on October 30, 1953, of not less than $33,000,000, granted for farms, homes and industries.

Capitalization Increased

Recently, capitalization of this bank was increased from $50,000,000 to $100,000,000.

Evidence of the country's sound banking and finance and its overall prosperity is the fact that total bank deposits have increased sixfold in ten years and the gold and dollar reserves, which amounted to $2,900,000 in 1949, are now $34,761,703.

The intelligent organization of banking and agricultural resources has enabled the Dominican Republic to balance its budget every year, to show a favorable trade balance of $350,000,000 over an unbroken 20 year period and increase exports from $15,000,000 to $100,000,000 during the same period.

All this has been accomplished without a penny of outside assistance.

OUTSTANDING among the many socio-economic measures with which the Government of the Dominican Republic sought to improve the lot of the rural population during 1953, was the distribution of State lands to tenant farmers. Under this program, 264,440 acres of land along the Haitian border became the property of the settlers who had been working the tracts.

This State agrarian reform measure was paralleled in the sugar industry by Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo who, as majority stockholder of the largest sugar-producing combine, transferred the deeds to 213,280 acres of the company's cane fields —complete with 13,350 oxen, carts and farm implements— to a large number of its *colonos*. The Porvenir and Montellano sugar mills followed suit, and it is hoped that the program will be actively supported by other sugar companies as well.

The State's financial assistance to municipalities and the Administrative Council of the District of Santo Domingo, in the form of subsidies alone, amounted to $2,047,761.61 contributing to a combined budget of $10,253,554.24.

Newest sugar mill in the Dominican Republic is the world's largest and most modern unit. It is capable of grinding 15,000 tons of cane daily. The giant crane shown in picture loads cane recently arrived from fields.

-1953-

Budget

REVENUES in 1953 totaled $126,262,014.68, disbursements $89,086,570.00, leaving a surplus of $37,175,444.68. This excess of actual income over estimated income attests to the government's conservative fiscal policies as well as to the prsoperity prevailing in the land.

The Central Bank's assets as of December 31, 1953, were $48,578,-233.09. Money issued totaled $42,-622,264.64, backed to the extent of $29,488,121.18 or 69.18 per cent by gold and U.S. dollar reserves. Money in circulation was $76,774,352.

Deposits in the country's banks amounted to $76,041,764.96 — $7,621,127.69 more than in 1952 Loans by commercial banks totaled $31,916,454.11, by the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank $54,331,-454.05. These, too, were higher than the previous year.

Agricultural Development

IN order to increase and improve rice production, the government set up a large, full equipped experimental station in Madre Vieja, a village in Julia Molina county. Established at an approximate cost of $160,000, the project is being direced by experts from the world-famous Vercelli Institute in Italy. An irrigation canal to water the experimental cultivations of various species of rice is now under construction. Its cost is expected to exceed $12,000.

Due to U. S. quota restrictions, only 3.7½ of Dominican exports were imported by the United States in 1952. Sugar represents 60% of total Dominican exports. —75% of Dominican imports in 1952 came from U. S. A. — Any increase or reduction of our purchases in the U. S. A. will depend on the correction of this unjust status.

In 1930, there were only nine agricultural settlement in the country, with a combined acreage of 46,500. By the middle of 1953, their number had grown to 50, with a combined acreage of 264,440. Of this area, 124,000 acres had been planted and 24,970 readied for sowing.

The distribution of 527,000 acres of rich land among 102,000 farmers, initiated by Generalissimo Trujillo, has given agricultural development considerable impetus.

In an effort to increase the country's livestock and to encourage sheep raising and fish cultivation so that the population at large might have a wider range of meats to choose from, the government put a temporary ban on the slaughtering of cows and thus limited the consumption of beef. Once the number of heads of cattle had reached a safe level, a decree was issued, calling for sale of beef daily except Sundays.

A new subsidiary of the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Bank is the Cacao Export Company, which utilizes the latest methods in processing cacao beans for export. Its service to the cacao growers cannot be overestimated.

The Dominican Republic has imported over 1,000 pieces of earth moving equipment over the last five years. This agricultural Caribbean nation now tills about one sixth of its arable soil mechanically whereas the figure was negligible in 1950. The equipment is being made available to the farmers.

LARGELY as a result of the preventive and curative work of the country's public health and hygiene agencies, the mortality and sickness rates have been considerably reduced since 1952. Institution of a nurses training course has raised the caliber and status of the country's nurses.

By spraying the inside of dwellings in the open country and in marshy areas with DDT, malaria —which only a short time ago was widespread on the island —has been brought under control. So far, 168,-366 dwellings housing 1,040,406 individuals have been so treated.

The incidence of yellow fever has been reduced to a minimum by elimination of the disease-carrying *aadees aegypti* species of mosquito. Headway has also been made in the fight against tuberculosis. In the Trujillo Valdés and San Pedro de Macoris provinces and the District of Santo Domingo alone, 8,384 BCG vaccinations were administered last year, following 18,964 tests. Vaccinations against typhus totaled 10,-276; against diphteria, 3,876.

The Dominican Insurance Fund's revenues in 1953 totaled $4,460,-840.49, of which $3,462,678.94 or 77.62 per cent represented dues from employers and members, and $627,-416.27 or 14.07 per cent State contributions. The bulk of these funds was paid out in sickness benefits, medical and hospitals expenses.

Food, Funds and Common Sense

All three are in good supply on this business-like Isle of Progress

THE PEOPLE of the Dominican Republic, second largest country of the West Indies, face today's troubled world with confidence born of well being and sound economic progress.

In 20 short years of skillfully-planned improvement, amazing things have happened. From a bare subsistence level, Dominican enterprise now feeds its people well and exports large quantities of many foods. Exports have climbed nearly 600 percent.

A $20,000,000 foreign debt has been whittled down to zero —an achievement no other country in the world has equalled. A sound Dominican currency has been developed, with ample gold reserves, and substantial dollar balances in New York. The Dominican peso today is worth exactly 10 U. S. dimes.

These are only a few of the results that have come from the Dominican government's scientific direction applied to production, marketing and finance. Dominicans are proud of their country's prodigious achievements.

For information concerning tourist attractions or business opportunities, write to the Director of Tourism, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, West Indies.

At well-stocked markets like this one at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominicans buy excellent fruits, vegetables, meat and fish in plenty. Clean, sanitary markets are characteristic of the country. Almost all the Dominican food is produced within the country. Farmers receive much government aid.

Dominicans produce 100,000,000 pounds of rice a year. Fifteen years ago its rice was nearly all imported. Today Dominicans grow and clean enough rice to supply all, with some left over for export. Rice retails locally for about 13c. a pound

Sugar is a big-money crop. The Dominican Republic ranks fourth among Latin American republics as a sugar producer. Its annual exports of sugar averages 500,000 tons. While sugar is a leading crop, the country's agriculture is well diversified.

Bank deposits have climbed more than 700 percent since 1936, to more than $50,000,000 in 1950. The circulation of dollars has increased ten-fold to meet increased volume of business.

Government housing projects provide 3 and 4 room Hollywood-type bungalows for $14 to $23 a month, with electricity, water modern plumbing and sewer facilities, and title to tenant afer 10 years.

Living is good. The houses of business and industrial executives follow the modern Dominican architecture— a combination of beauty and comfort.

Here's a Health Program that Really Works

Individualism and government aid combine successfully on this West Indies Isle of Progress

TODAY, in addition to its wonderfully healthful climate the Dominican Republic has a national health-protection program that serves all, from unborn infants to its oldest citizens. It includes maternity aid wherever needed, with free prenatal and postnatal care and education.

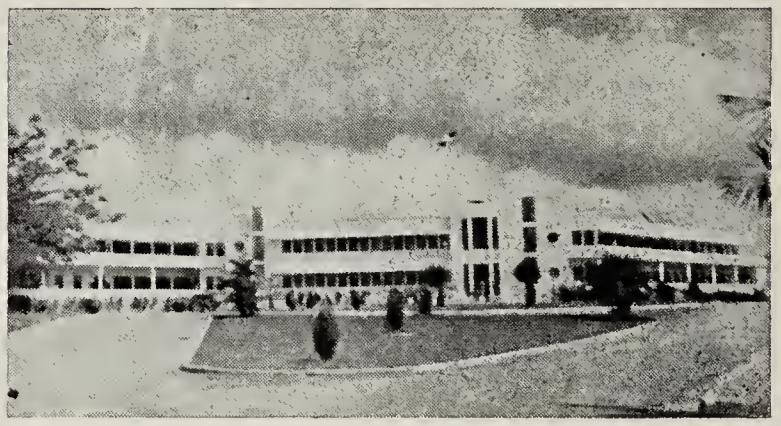
Modern workers' hospitals with up-to-date facilities are staffed by highly qualified doctors and nurses. Day homes for children of working mothers provide food, nursing care and schooling. Specialists with modern equipment devote their skill to clinical diagnosis and control of tuberculosis, malaria, cancer and other diseases.

The Dominican program includes prodigious measures for disease prevention. $25,000,000 has been invested in modern systems to provide the country with a pure-water supply. Dominicans fill their glasses at the tap and drink in safety as in the United States.

Swamp drainage projects have helped to combat malaria. Rural sanitation systems and urban cleanliness have greatly reduced disease incidence.

The Dominican people and their government are proud of their Health Program and the part it has played in raising and stabilizing the well-being and economy of this Isle of Progress.

Dominican babies are born under expert auspices. Prospective mothers are prepared with prenatal care and advice, and free layettes. Needy mothers receive a free milk supply for infants. No mother need be without complete postnatal care.



This modern hospital at Ciudad Trujillo is staffed and equipped for prevention and treatment of disease. Under the prevention program radiograph and fluoroscope examinations are conducted on a wide scale for early disease detection.

For information concerning tourist attractions or business opportunities, write to the Director of Tourism, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, W. I.

City streets are swept clean every day on this Isle of Progress. In rural and urban areas motorized clinics travel from house to house, give free advice and diagnoses.

Spic and span food markets with complete stocks of the native foods and fruits assure well-rounded diets for Dominicans. Cleanliness is a fetish in this Caribbean country.

Individualized workers' home, at rentals of $14 to $23 a month, afford tenants electricity, water supply, modern plumbing and sewer facilities. Tenants can receive title after 10 years.

★ BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES ★ IN THE PROGRESSIVE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We, of the Dominican Republic, can never overlook our close ties with the United States. It is therefore appropriate that we extend to the American businessman an invitation to consider our natural resources, markets, favorable income and property tax situation, beneficial labor conditions and our overall building, financial, export and import conditions; in short . . . our investment opportunities.

An appraisal of the annual economic situation in the Dominican Republic for 1952, made available by the Office of International Trade of the United States Department of Commerce—the most trusted source of information on international trade and business conditions abroad—has this to say say:

"The Dominican Republic saw noticeable increases in 1951 in annual sales and employment . . . capital investment and number of industrial establishments. This favorable state of affairs in 1951 set the pace for the year under review, which was marked by full employment, active business turnover and a general upward tendency in industrial progress.

"Both the 1952 and 1953 budgets were respectively the highest on record. These increases in expenditures have been officially justified by an expanding public economy supported by governmental activity, marked by progress, stability and prosperity. As the Dominican Government operates on the principle of a balanced budget, it has taken steps in 1952 to increase tax receipts without making major alterations in the existing tax structure."

Progress

The economic policies of the republic have improved the business structure of the nation and brought about unparalleled prosperity. The fiscal policies of the country are favorable to business. Judge for yourself:

No Income Taxes

Personal income in the Dominican Republic is not subject to direct tax.

No Tax on Rural Property

Real estate outside of urban settlements is free from taxation.

Favorable Labor Conditions

The labor force of the Dominican Republic enjoys a progressive social legislation. Inexpensive living conditions, however, favor industrial and agricultural development. The law provides for an 8-hour day and a 6-day work week. Workers' homes, erected with government assistance, rent for as little as $14-$24 per month, and tenants become owners after ten years.

Building Program Creates Demand

The many public buildings, port improvements, hotel and resort developments, channel and irrigation projects under construction, the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse and the constantly growing number of homes and factories offer an important market for industrial products. There will be many millions of dollars invested in these programs in the immediate future.

Dominican Capital Cooperates

Investors in industry and agriculture will find the capital market of the Dominican Republic eager to participate in the financing of new enterprise. Thus participation of domestic capital will reduce the demands on foreign investors in developing new business enterprises.

Port Facilities, Transportation Roads

Ten seaports, a system of modern roads, a railroad, expanding air and shipping lines, convenient location near the centers of business along the Atlantic Coast, make trade with the Dominican Republic easy.

Protection for Business

The legislation of the Dominican Republic aims at the protection of her enterprises. Importers and exporters find trade with Dominican business men a source of profit unhampered by the many restrictions of payment and free of the licensing systems that restrain trade with so many other countries today. Most important, there is no dollar shortage.

Sound Money

The Dominican Gold Peso equals 0.888671 gram fine gold. It is one of the few currencies of the world not maintained artificially through restrictions of international payment. It is freely exchangeable against U. S. Dollars. Behind the sound money stands the sound economy of a country with a consistent surplus of exports over imports, a nation that has repaid its foreign bonded debts, a government policy aimed at the encouragement of enterprise through economic security.

Profits

American business has found trade and investment in the Dominican Republic attractive and sound. The participation of Dominican capital in new economic ventures offers a guarantee of fair treatment to the American investor and trader. The more than 3,100 new businesses that have come into existence since 1943 render evidence of the favorable conditions for enterprise which common-sense planning by this administration has created.

Business is Good in the Dominican Republic!
Opportunties Abound for Investor and Businessman.

For further information please mail coupon:

Secretary of National Economy,
Commerce and Labor,
Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic

( ) Export and Import Business.

( ) Industry in the Dominican Republic.

( ) Agriculture in the Dominican Republic

Name .....
please print

Address .....

City ..... Zone ... State .....

Business .....